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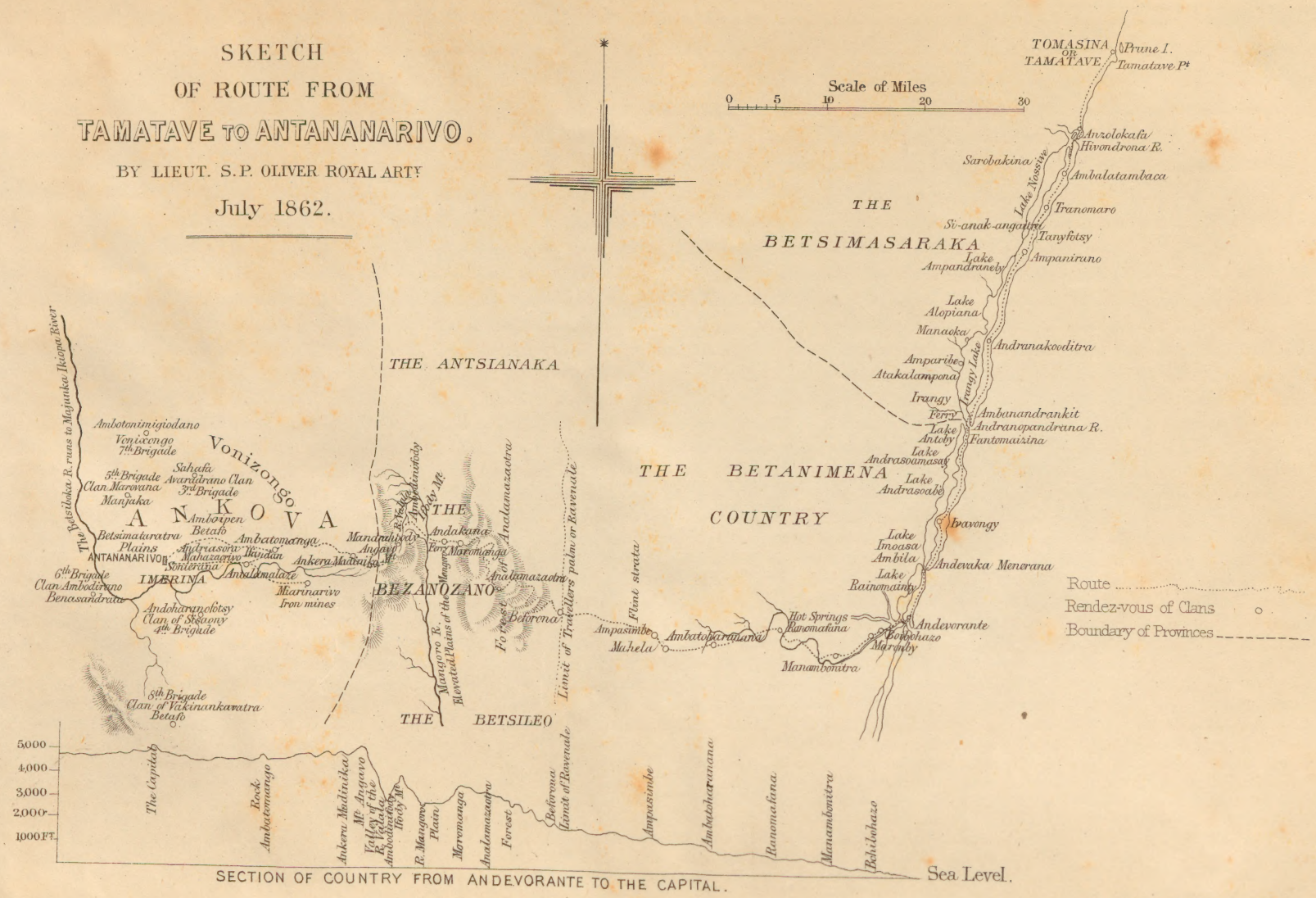
SKETCH OF ROUTE FROM TAMATAVE TO ANTANANARIVO.

BY LIEUT. S.P. OLIVER ROYAL ART.Y

July 1862.



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MADAGASCAR

AND THE

MALAGASY.

WITH

SKETCHES IN THE PROVINCES OF TAMATAVE, BETANIMENA, AND ANKOVA.

BY

LIEUT. S. P. OLIVER,

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

F.R.G.S.

"UBIQUE."

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TO

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B. D.C.L.

ETC. ETC.

This Volume

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

On the death of Ranavalona, the old Queen of Madagascar, in August 1861, her son Rakoto was placed on the throne under the name and title of Radama II. The government of Mauritius soon after received a letter from Ra Haniraka, the Malagasy Minister of Foreign Affairs, a man who had had an English education, to the effect that Madagascar was reopened to all foreigners as in the time of the first Radama. Ra Haniraka also suggested that the Governor of Mauritius should send a mission of congratulation to the King.

Accordingly, in September, Colonel Middleton, of the Royal Artillery, Lieutenant Marindin, of the Royal Engineers, and some civilians, were sent over by Governor Stephenson with some valuable presents. They reached the capital, where they stayed five days, and returned as quickly as possible, owing to the danger of being on the coast in the fever season. Letters and presents were also sent by the French towards the end of the same year.

The importance of responding to the invitation of the

new sovereign of an island, so long closed to European civilisation and trade, was evident. Mauritius and the neighbouring French colony of Réunion derive the whole of their supplies of beef from Madagascar, and the trade in rice and other produce is capable of being increased indefinitely.

Meantime, the King sent an autograph letter to our most gracious Queen Victoria, at the hands of Mons. Lambert, a French adventurer, who had played a conspicuous part in the affairs of Madagascar. The Queen replied by an autograph letter sent to the care of the Governor of Mauritius, and at the same time instructions were received from the Home Government that some officer of rank should be chosen to present King Radama with Her Majesty's letter, as well as with the accompanying presents :—

A quarto family Bible ; a scarlet silk umbrella ; a silver-gilt tankard and goblets ; Wilkinson rifle ; gold-mounted Field Marshal's scimetar and sword-belt ; a Field Marshal's uniform complete ; a full-length portrait of Her Majesty ; and a set of musical instruments for a band of twenty-five performers.

On the 27th June, 1862, the Governor appointed Major-General Johnstone to take the Queen's letter, and the Lord Bishop of Mauritius to present the Bible, both the above having volunteered to go.

Captain Anson, R.A., was selected to take the remaining presents ; Captain Wilson, of H.M.S. "Gorgon," was

offered a place in the mission, but declined; Lieutenant Oliver, R.A., accompanied it as aide-de-camp to the Major-General.

The presents were sent in a merchant vessel to Tamatave, the chief seaport of Madagascar, under the care of Mr. Caldwell, who had visited the country before, and undertook to get them up to the capital with as little delay as possible.

The French Government despatched a mission to the court of Madagascar at the same time that the English Government did; the head of this was Commodore Dupré, who was accompained by a numerous staff.

Madagascar is so little known by the English public, and its semi-civilised people have in a general way excited so little interest, that it may be as well to mention very briefly a few facts connected with it.

It is peopled by various tribes, chief among which, both in civilisation and importance, are the Hovas. This tribe was originally limited to the central province of Ankova, but the chief of it is now looked upon as the king of the whole island; to it also belong all the great officers of state and principal nobility. The capital, Antananarivo, is situated in the province of Ankova, and in the very centre of the island.

The people are intelligent, gentle, and hospitable. Christianity has made considerable progress among them in spite of the persecution it met with in the latter part of the late Queen's reign. King Radama II., at the time

of his accession, was about thirty-three. He was a friend of the Christians, and had been himself baptized in 1846. He was married to his cousin, the Princess Rabodo, who was considerably his senior.

Madagascar has had a standing army ever since 1816, when a few British soldiers sent from Mauritius assisted the first Radama in organising and disciplining his troops according to European methods. The different grades in the army are designated by the word Voninahitra, which we have translated, "Honour." They originally ranged from the lowest, or first Honour, *i.e.*, the private soldier, up to the thirteenth Honour, or Commander-in-chief, but some additional ranks have been added of late years, bringing the number of Honours up to sixteen, or even seventeen.

The power of the first King, Radama, was greatly strengthened by an alliance into which he entered in 1817 with the Governor of Mauritius. On consideration of his putting a stop to the slave-trade in his dominions, the British Government agreed to make him an annual payment,—this payment was to consist partly of money, and partly of arms and ammunition, and to these means is to be ascribed much of Radama's success in extending the power and influence of the Hovas.

The instructions given to the English mission of 1862 were, to proceed as quickly as possible to the capital, to present the letter of congratulation and the gifts of Her Majesty, to attend the coronation, and to return as soon as was consistent with comfort.

The "Gorgon" left Port Louis with the mission on board on Saturday, the 12th of July, and anchored in the roadstead off Tamatave, on Tuesday, the 15th of the same month.

The following extracts from a diary, kept by a member of the mission, will perhaps best connect and explain the accompanying illustrations. They commence from the day when H.M.S. "Gorgon" arrived at Tamatave.

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MADAGASCAR.

CHAPTER I.

Arrival at Tamatave—Visit to the Governor—Ludicrous Appearance of Procession—The Fort of Thomasina—Saluting Flag of Radama—Malagasy "God save the King"—Andriamandroso—Chief Judge's House—Entertainment given to the Mission—Presents from the Governor.

Tuesday, 15*th July*, 1862.—At daylight Madagascar was visible from the deck, and as soon as the sun was well up, the coast lay before us stretching into the distance on either side; the mountains in the back-ground being partly concealed by mists and clouds. By the time we anchored in the roadstead, at 11.45, everything was bright, and clear, and glittering under the blaze of a tropical sun. Although we had been prejudiced against Tamatave, the first impressions were decidedly favourable. We looked upon a line of white sand, backed by grassy hillocks and groves of fine trees with deep cool shadows; from behind the trees peeped the top of the Fort, over which floated Radama's white flag; this, with the town running out into the sea upon a narrow point of land, combined to form a perfect picture. Round the point, half a mile off, stretched a coral reef, on the outer ridge of which lay the skeletons

of two luckless "bullockers,"—*i.e.* coasting vessels employed in the exportation of cattle,—against the sides of which the spray of the outside rollers leaped as high as their ancient masts. These soon after afforded excellent marks for the 10-inch shells of the "Gorgon." Lieutenant Keppel, R.N. pulled ashore as soon as the anchor was down, and informed the Governor of our arrival. This information elicited a salute of twenty-one guns, the tiny cracks of which seemed scarcely to be equal to those of musketry. They were speedily silenced by the roar of the "Gorgon's" cannon in reply. A boat now came off from the shore with some of the native officers dressed in semi-European costume; they mounted to the quarterdeck amidst the barely concealed laughter of the officers, and after introducing themselves to the General and the rest of the party, begged for a list of our names and titles, which was readily afforded.

We now learnt that the "Hermione" (a French fifty-gun frigate, lying two miles off near the Isle des Prunes) had brought Commodore Dupré and a large staff, as the French representative at the coronation, and that he had left Tamatave that same morning for Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar.

We also heard that our newly appointed Consul, Mr. Packenham, had not yet started for the capital, but was still at Tamatave; that he had wished to hoist his flag here, but that the Governor would not allow him to do so without orders from Radama; and that our Consul had taken offence, and refused to meet the Governor at all. At three P.M. the Bishop and I went on shore, and Captain Anson accompanied Captain Wilson on board the "Hermione." I then visited Mr. and Mrs. Packenham, who were living in a small, but not uncomfortable house.

The people crowded down to the boats when we landed. They seemed good-natured and friendly disposed towards

us. Most of them were dressed in the common *lamba*, which is a piece of stuff the size of half an ordinary sheet, wrapped round both shoulders, and the longer end again thrown over one shoulder, so that both arms are imprisoned, and as the loose end is very apt to fall off, one hand is continually engaged in keeping it on. The lamba is made of all kinds of material. The poorer people use Rabanne cloth, made from the bark of the Rofia palm. Those who can get it prefer European cotton. Lambas of various striped patterns are woven by the Hovas in Imerina, both of cotton and silk.

Tamatave is a large village, and will no doubt soon become a place of importance. There are about five thousand inhabitants. The village itself consists of two parallel, but rather straggling streets, running north and south. Being built on a point it has the sea on both sides of it, and the main part of the village lies in a hollow between two sand-banks. The west sand-bank entirely hides the sea from the village, and is covered with trees, conspicuous amongst which is the Pandanus, the wild Vacoa, which grows to a great size. The eastern bank is not planted, but here the best houses in the place are built, surrounded with large enclosures of bamboos, and interspersed with a few cocoa-nut trees. On leaving the Consul, I joined the Bishop and Captain Anson, and found that an escort of soldiers and a band of music, with chairs and bearers, had been sent down to take us to the Fort. We mounted our chairs, and the band in front marched off, blowing away at some rather battered European brass instruments, a saxhorn, a cornet, a trombone, a clarionet or two, and several drums.

Then followed the soldiers in double ranks, dressed in white trousers and blouses. They carried old Tower flint muskets and bayonets, not particularly clean. Their

cartouches and belts were falling to pieces ; many of them were kept together by pieces of string, and evidently had not been pipeclayed for the last twenty years. After the soldiers, of whom there might have been some twenty-five or thirty, walked the officers, who were still more incongruously dressed. They displayed every style of European costume, but in so ragged a form that they looked as if they had come from Donnybrook fair. Very few had shoes, and fewer still stockings, and those who had these latter allowed them to drop over the heels of their low boots. After these magnates came our party in chairs, or, as the natives call them, *filanzans*. Some were arm-chairs fastened to poles, others were merely seats made of a piece of ox-hide, stretched between two poles. Seated in these, the Bishop, Anson, and I, with our interpreter Andronisa, proceeded in solemn state to the Fort. The Fort lies about half a mile to the north of the town. It is composed of a keep or citadel, mounting some dozen cannon ; outside this is a deep ditch, and outside this again an enormous glacis, so steep as not to deserve the name ; embrasures are cut in the glacis for the guns of the keep to fire through. To the west, so placed as to flank the approach to the town, is an outwork of earth mounting three small cannon. This is also used as a saluting battery. To the north of the Fort is a large palisaded camp capable of holding three thousand soldiers. I was unable to find out how many soldiers were quartered there at this time, but I do not suppose there were more than four hundred. On entering from the front we passed three guard-houses, one at the gateway of the palisaded camp, the next at a second line of palisades to the east of the Kabary (or council) ground, and, after passing through the archway of the glacis, we found another guard-house on the bridge over the ditch. The guards all turned out

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THOMASINA, THE FORT OF TAMATAVE.

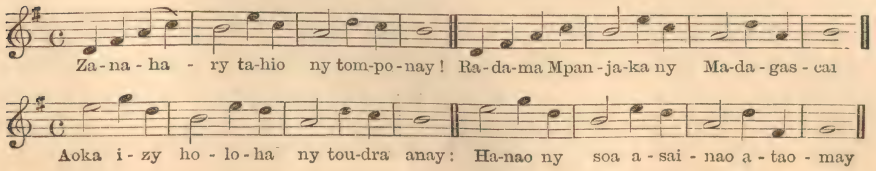
as we passed and presented arms. I should mention that all the soldiers have spears as well as muskets when in the ranks; when halted in line, they plant the spears in front of them. The object of this is, I imagine, to give the idea of a greater number of men, as at a distance when one can only see the spear-heads and bayonets, the troops appear more numerous than they are in reality.*

After the last guard-room, we passed another archway under the rampart, and then entered the courtyard of the Fort; here the troops were drawn up in parade order, forming three sides of a large square round the flag-staff; the Governor and his staff were in front of his house, a long, low, two-storied building, with verandah painted red. The band struck up "Sidikin," the Malagasy "God save the King."† The troops presented arms to the flag, the Governor took off his hat, and we followed his example.

Directly the music ceased, the Governor, staff-officers, &c., all salaamed to the flag, exclaiming, "Veloome, Velo-o-o-o . . . . me Tsara Tompk . . . . a y ! !" which means, "Hail, O good king!" The band then struck up "The British Grenadiers," and the soldiers again presented arms, whilst we advanced to meet the Governor, who came towards us with outstretched hands. He was dressed in striped pyjamas, slippers, yellow waistcoat, and a long scarlet coat reaching nearly to his heels, and wore two large

* This custom, as I afterwards learnt, is not followed at the capital, but only in the coast fortresses and military posts, where there are but few soldiers.

† Malagasy "God save the King."



bullion epaulettes. He shook hands with us all round, then led us into the house, and upstairs to his reception room, where there was a long table with champagne and glasses. We sat down, and, through the interpreter, made the usual common-place compliments. The Governor then ordered the wine to be opened, and as soon as our glasses were filled, proposed the health of Radama and Victoria. The signal was given to the band outside, who played the national airs of both countries, and the troops again presented arms. In fact, the wretched troops seemed to be kept on parade all day long, presenting arms on the slightest occasion. After arranging with the Governor about the landing and ceremonial the next day, we took leave, and were escorted down to the beach by the band and soldiers as usual. We returned on board ship in time for Captain Wilson's dinner, and made arrangements for getting all our things on shore the next day.

Wednesday, 16th July.—Occupied all the morning in getting the luggage ashore in the paddle-box boat, and storing it in the custom-house. At two o'clock a band and escort of soldiers, &c., with palanquins as the day before, came down to the beach, and the General and staff landed in the captain's gig, being saluted as they left the "Gorgon." The procession was soon formed, Madagascar etiquette placing the highest ranks last in the order of march. We then proceeded to the house of the Chief Judge Pilibert, where in front of the house, in a large courtyard shaded by lofty trees, sat the Governor in gala dress; a small French cocked hat jauntily stuck upon the side of his head, scarlet coat with long swallow-tails, and gold frogs, blue velvet trousers embroidered with gold down the seams, a field-officer's sword, scabbard, and epaulettes. Andriamandroso is the imposing name of this dignitary. A large escort of soldiers was drawn up in

line, and went through the customary ceremonies. The Governor then advanced and shook hands with us all, and led the General into the house, which he proposed giving us to live in whilst we were at Tamatave. As the General, however, preferred living on board, only Anson and I took possession of the house, storing our cases all round the room, which was a fine large one papered with French paper representing the battles of the Crimea. The Governor made it over to us in a long speech, and after a great deal of complimentary language on both sides, we again mounted our palanquins, and went up to the Fort, where all the old ceremonies were gone through, with which the visit concluded.

Thursday, July 17th.—Went ashore with Anson, and took up our quarters in the Chief Judge's house. Andronisa set out to engage Marmites, as the bearers are called, to take us up to the capital. The French are reported to have taken more than six hundred of them. Caldwell's party, who are about to start with the presents for the King, require two hundred, and we shall want four hundred, which are very difficult to obtain. Last year the price for each Marmite was $2, this year they have raised their price to $3–50, which makes a great difference in the expenses of the journey. The Chief Judge's house where we now live is decidedly one of the best in Tamatave. It consists of one large room about fifty feet long, the timber of the roof is palm-tree lashed with rofia—the thatch is very neatly put on, and is formed of ravenale leaves. The floor is raised some three feet from the ground, which here is pure sand. So far it is the same as the other houses, but inside there is an attempt at European ornamentation, as it is floored and papered; the wind, however, comes through the boards in a manner

that secures thorough ventilation. Here we live, Anson slinging his cot from the cross-beam, and I making use of the General's palanquin for a bed. Our staff of servants consists of a Tranquebar cook, who is always called "cook," and apparently never had any other name; Peter Botte, a Malagasy naturalized British subject, he is the General's personal attendant; David, a Betsimasaraka, speaking both Creole and Malagasy; Médine, my man, an awful rascal; and Jean, a little constable, who is Anson's retainer; he had been an escaped Sakalava slave. Francine, the assistant cook, a first-rate young fellow, makes up the number. We have brought plenty of preserved soups, hams, and potted meats, not to mention wine, beer, and other drinkables; and as turkeys are to be bought four for a dollar, we shall not want for eating. Arranging, and unpacking, and repacking, and stowing, have occupied the greater part of this day. In the evening, Anson and I strolled through the town, amusing ourselves with the novelty of all we saw.

Friday, 18*th*.—Up soon after daylight and out shooting, I also made two or three sketches. The views from the tops of the sand-hills, that stretch along the shore, are beautiful in the extreme; in front a wide plain, green and fertile, sprinkled here and there with clumps of low trees; beyond, a gently undulating country, covered with ravenale and large timber; and in the distance mountains of every shade and colour, growing fainter and fainter. We had the edge of our appetite for breakfast taken off by coming across the body of a man in a state of decomposition; he had been strangled, the rope was still round his neck, but whether murdered, or destroyed by his own hand, it was impossible to say. We afterwards told the authorities, but they appeared to think it no business of theirs. After

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CHIST MARMITE.

BETSIMASARAKS AND BETANIMENES.

breakfast a deputation from the Fort arrived with a present to our party of four bullocks, rice, sugar-cane, and fruit. After entertaining the chiefs who brought them, we received an invitation to dine with the Governor, for which purpose the General and Bishop, who were still on board ship, came on shore at two o'clock.

CHAPTER II.

Engagement of four hundred Men to carry the Personnel of the Mission to the Capital—Dividing the Baggage—Strike of the Marmites—A Wet Sunday in Tamatave—Advance of a Portion of the Baggage on the Road—First Day's March—River Hivondro—Anzolokafa—Crossing a River—Halt at Ambalatambaca—Arrival at Trano Maro.

By this morning, the number of Marmites recruited for us by well-paid emissaries was nearly complete, and we are in hopes of sending off on Saturday about two hundred men with the heavy luggage, and of following ourselves on Monday. We were taken up to the Fort at the dinner hour, with all the usual ceremony, and found a large table spread in the lower room of the Governor's house, with roast and boiled, stewed and curried,—all the delicacies in and out of season. Everybody helped himself, some sixty guests sitting down. Knives and forks were used by those who had them, those who had not availed themselves of their fingers. The Governor sat at the top of the table with the General on his right hand, and the Bishop on his left. A great many loyal and friendly toasts were drunk, and at about six o'clock we were able to get away, after a cup of very good native coffee. The General and Bishop were escorted down to the beach, where Anson and I left them, and returned to our house, attended by innumerable fire-flies.

Saturday, July 19th.—In the morning, the sailors, to whom we had given a bullock, came on shore to kill it. This was easier said than done, and the capture of the animal was not effected for a long time; at last, however, he was cut up and taken to the ship. The mornings are cool and pleasant now; at 7.30 the thermometer stood at 68°, barometer (aneroid), 30·36 inches. Before breakfast the Marmites began to muster in the courtyard under the trees, and by the time we had finished were present to the amount of some five hundred. All the baggage was in front of our house before the door-way, and round this the Marmites squatted in a semicircle, each with his eyes fixed upon that piece of luggage which he thought lightest; as there were not many light packages, and abundance of heavy ones, of course a great many were eager after the same thing, and at last they charged down on the luggage, fighting and struggling for the lightest things, no one attempting to touch the heavy ones. Anson and I, and Andronisa, backed by the servants, however, drove them back after a vigorous application of long sugar-canes, and restored some kind of order; but Anson being called away, our forces were so diminished, that when a second charge took place we were forced to retire, and to let them have their own way, and tie up the packages as they liked. Not one could we induce to touch some very heavy large cases and magazines, that unwittingly we had brought with us. However at last, through the oratory of Mr. Andronisa, a compromise was effected, and by the help of a little extra pay, and the promise of a bullock, we came to terms. The General and Bishop came to see how we were getting on during the afternoon. We could not get matters with the Marmites arranged before it was dark, so that it was impossible to start off the heavy stores as we had intended, and we had to put off our departure till Tuesday. This

evening it came on to blow and rain. Everything was soon wet and moist inside the house as well as out.

July 20th, Sunday.—Rain—pouring rain. Anson laid up with a slight attack of fever. The Marmites kill their bullock, and do not appear to mind the wet a bit. The Bishop held morning service on board the "Gorgon," but we were unable to go, as there were none of the ship's boats on shore, and the sea was too rough to go off in a canoe. In the afternoon, however, the Bishop came ashore, the weather having moderated, and read the service in French at the store of a trader in the town, where we joined him. The congregation was very small, only four or five people of the place in addition to ourselves. The retail traders here are a very low set, chiefly ex-filibusters from Mexico. Anson was not at all well in the evening, and I began to be seriously afraid that he would not be able to go on with us.

Monday, 21st July.—Early in the morning one hundred and thirty-four Marmites started off with our heavy baggage in advance; two hundred and forty-five remain behind, being the bearers and carriers of our personal effects and stores for the march up. An escort of twelve Hova soldiers under two officers, with our seven servants, interpreter, and five of ourselves, made the whole of our forces amount to four hundred and six. The General's palanquin is to be carried by twenty-four men, eight at a time. Captain Anson's the same. Mine only requires eight, as does also Dr. Meller's (a botanist, who is on sick leave from Dr. Livingstone's expedition, and has requested permission to join our party.) The Bishop will have sixteen men to his. The whole of this day has been devoted to packing.

Tuesday, 22d July.—The General and Bishop landed tolerably early, and we were able to form our line of march

by ten o'clock A.M., at which time the vanguard started with music, escort, and all due military honours. Anson and I remained behind at least two hours afterwards to see everything off. We then started at a tearing pace; he in his long, bed-like palanquin covered something like a hearse with black waterproof; I in a simple chair on two poles, and with no protection from the sun.

On leaving Tamatave we travelled along the coast in a south-west half west direction. Our course lay over a flat plain, the soil sandy, but covered with grass, there being a great quantity of dark vegetable matter mixed with the sand. We noticed a number of strychnos, pandanus, &c., and various shrubs; and we passed several herds of oxen in pens ready for shipment in "bullockers" to Mauritius or Réunion. We had to ford two or three streams, and passed numerous pools of shallow water, in which little naked children were sailing mimic boats. A good trade-wind from the south-east blew freshly the whole day. After travelling two or three miles I caught up the advanced guard and passed it, having the lightest chair. The country now became more wooded and park-like; short, crisp turf made the plain like an English lawn, and on each side of the road, about half a mile off, were very good groups and topes of timber, principally fillahoes, and gum-trees, and palms of every description. The ground within that distance had been cleared on account of the numerous herds of cattle that come from the interior for sale at Tamatave.

I reached Hivondro River more than thirty minutes before any of the rest, and halted at the village of Anzolokafa, where I waited the arrival of the others in the verandah of a house belonging to Madame Fische, a Malagasy princess. All our luggage as it came up was stored in the Government guard-house. The General and

the Bishop took possession of a house close by, while the rest of us put up in Madame Fische's house, which also served as our mess-room. The first day's journey from Tamatave is always short, in order that travellers may have an opportunity of sending back for anything they may find missing, and alter the arrangement of the baggage, &c., &c.

Wednesday, 23*rd July*.—Up early, and got a bathe in the sea while the sun was rising; by the time it was up I had walked to the highest part of the village, and sketched the river, and the noble panorama beyond it. Before I had half finished, breakfast was ready, to which we all did ample justice except poor Anson, who was still prostrate with fever. I forgot to say in its proper place, that when we arrived here yesterday, we found our heavy baggage, which had got here before us, but a great many of the bearers had bolted, so we had all the trouble of looking out for and engaging new ones. This of course delayed the day's march, as we have to send these people on in front.

We waited a long time on the banks of the Hivondro, as there were not boats enough to take us over. These boats or canoes are about two feet broad, and vary from twenty to forty feet in length; they are formed from the simple trunks of trees hollowed out. They are very crank and easily upset.

Crossing in the heat of the day was very tedious, but was accomplished at last, and then, after a march of two or three hours, we reached Ambalatambaca (the place of tobacco), a wretched hamlet of not more than half-a-dozen huts or sheds of the most miserable description. Here the Marmites set down our baggage and refused to move a step further except for higher wages. The Bishop and General looked at the proposed accommodation with horror.

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RIVER RIVINDRO

A few reeds and stalks of ravenale offered only the scantiest shelter from the dew and wind at night, which we were apt to feel greatly after the fatigue and heat of the day. After a long delay here, we bribed the Marmites to resume their loads, and take us on as far as Trano Maro (many houses), by the promise of an extra sixpence, and an advance of half-a-dollar upon the money due to them.

We did not, however, reach Trano Maro until dark. This village was at least a decided improvement upon the one we had just left. About fourteen houses were arranged in the form of a square, enclosing a piece of ground about thirty yards long. All round this piece of ground the Marmites encamped, making the whole village glow with their fires. Meller had been indefatigable in collecting plants, birds, and insects, all day long; and in the evening, after our dinner, employed himself in arranging his prizes and skinning the birds we had shot. We had a little rain, but the houses were tolerably snug. About eight o'clock the officer in command of the escort of soldiers in a loud voice proclaimed watch-setting, and that any Marmite or other person moving about after that hour would be shot by the sentries. A sentry was posted at each door. One of them from time to time fired off his musket in order to scare away possible thieves, but this was the only disturbance of the night.

CHAPTER III.

Payment of Marmites—Current Coin—White Ants—Park Scenery—Ampanirano—Angræcums—Lake Erangy—Andranakooditra—Horned Owl—Fleas—Takalampona—Travelling along the Seashore—Ferry—Woods—Pantomazina—Lemur albifrons—Makis—A hasty Meal—Sago Palms—Ivavongy—King's Lapa—Sakalava Drums—Botanist.

Thursday, *July* 24*th*.—I was up before daybreak, and bathed by moonlight in a small pond behind the village, after which I employed myself in sketching until breakfast was ready, while Anson superintended the payment of the promised advance of half-a-dollar to each of the men. The Marmites are very particular about their money; the current coin of the realm is the dollar, or rather the French five-franc piece, and this is cut up into halves, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths. They are never tired of weighing and testing their money, so as to ensure their not being cheated. This matter being settled at last, most of the baggage was sent on by 8.45, and our party followed, some in palanquins, some on foot.

After leaving Trano Maro, the track is narrower, the trees look more healthy, and there is an absence of those blanched, gaunt, dead trunks of trees which are so remarkable a feature of the country between Trano Maro and Hivondro River. The white ants seem to be respon-

sible for this ; all along the coast multitudes of their nests are to be seen up in the trees, the sides of which are covered with their tracks; the trees themselves are very soon destroyed by them. Plenty of paroquets, green pigeons, cardinals, egrets, black and white crows, flying about here, furnished occupation for our guns. The thickets became closer, but the path still continued as broad as an English highway, and covered with beautiful turf. The scenery altogether reminded me of a shrubbery or wilderness in some lovely park in England, and we could almost have expected to see at the next turn a beautiful mansion, with lawns and gardens ; instead of which, however, we only passed the squalid huts of a few charcoal-burners, and woodcutters, who stared with wondering eyes at our caravan, which extended over from two to three miles of country.

Turning out of the forest at Tanyfotsy, and crossing a small stream, we came once more upon the sea-shore, and travelling along the sand for a few miles reached Ampanirano, a small village on a lake. This lake was only about a mile long, and, like most of the lagoons about the coast, was covered with dwarf pandanus and large arums, with papyrus. Here we halted at mid-day and breakfasted.

I shot two very pretty birds, one a small humming-bird with two bright yellow spots on its shoulders, the other a grey bird, the size of a thrush, with red eyes. It was very hot, and we often had to rest under the thick bushes, and so had plenty of time to admire the magnificent orchids which were in full blossom around and above us on every side, more especially the *Angræcum sesquipedale* and *superbum*, on which the Rev. W. Ellis expatiates in his work on Madagascar. Our course after this brought us to one of the largest of the lakes — Lake Erangy

—where we halted at a collection of wretched cottages, on a high bank of sand, between the lake and the sea, called Andranakooditra. After having arranged our things for the night we walked out along the coast, but only shot a few sandpipers; bathed in the sea, and whilst waiting for dinner shot a large horned owl. We also caught sight of a goatsucker, which, however, it was then too dark to shoot.

The fleas are always a great annoyance to us at night, and we have to anoint ourselves with camphor, which we find a partial remedy. Anson has another touch of fever.

Friday, 25th July.—Daylight saw us stirring. The usual custom was to pack off everything as early as possible, leaving just sufficient to enable us to breakfast comfortably. Got a dip in the sea—the chance of a shark there being less than that of a crocodile in the lake. Our journey to-day led us under the shade of some thick pandanus groves along the Erangy lake. It was pleasant walking under the shelter of these groves, and when they opened we got beautiful glimpses of the lake and the wooded banks and hills beyond.

We left Andranakooditra at eight o'clock, and strolled along, taking it very easily till we came opposite Takalampona, a small village on a point of land running out on the western side of the lake, exceedingly like some of the flatter parts of Windermere. We now emerged from the woods and again took to the sea-shore, travelling along which at midday was very trying. The sand glowed till it was painful to the eye; and the white sea foam, extending some three or four hundred yards beyond, rendered the prospect still more dazzling. The sea itself was obscured with a hazy, misty glare, which suggested suffocation, and the only relief the eye had was the groves on our right, consisting of fillahoes, palms, and vacoas,

PANTOMAZINA

at which we wistfully gazed. The line of sand-bank between the sea and lake became gradually narrower and lower, and presently disappeared altogether, so that we were forced to take pirogues and cross at a ferry. Directly after crossing we had to ascend a steep bank, at the top of which was a village; we then turned our steps to the left, and after passing a lovely grassy glade surrounded by an amphitheatre of lofty timber, plunged into the intricacies of a thick forest, through which the path was so narrow that it was with great difficulty that the General's palanquin was got through at all. Creepers, parasites, orchids, and ferns of large size, were to be seen here in great abundance. After an hour's march we emerged from this, along the banks of a small stream skirting the edge of the woods, which we forded, and then halted for the mid-day meal at the hamlet of Pantomazina (pounding of rice by night). In the woods we saw a kind of lemur, which did not appear very timid. They belong to the tribe of *Lemur albifrons*, and vary in colour from chestnut to grey, with white hair on the forehead. The natives call them "Makis."

We halted at Pantomazina for some time. The bearers quickly arranged themselves in little groups of three or four, one of whom made the fire between three stones, another put the rice and water in a thin earthenware pot, and another collected the leaves of ravenale, or plantain, which served them as plates, cups, and saucers. It took about half-an-hour to cook, eat, and finish everything, but we generally allowed them to rest for at least an hour. The sago-palms about this time began to form a new feature in the scenery.

Our afternoon's march brought us to Andrasoabe Lake, where, at the village of Ivavongy, was our resting-place for the night. On the western side of the lake is the

military post, and *lapa*, or king's house (of which there is one in every village), with a flag-staff, rice-store, and out-buildings, all enclosed in a neat palisade of gaulettes. The village on the east is a small collection of huts which have sprung up as a market, and accommodation for travellers. After we halted, I crossed over alone to the western village to sketch the lapa. In one of the cottages I found two Sakalava drums, of one of which I made a sketch; they consist of a solid piece of hard wood hollowed out, leaving the thickness of about an inch. A piece of ox-hide with the skin and hair on, is fastened outside by withes, and kept tight by twisted rofia cord, stretched over clumsy bridges of wood.

Here we met with a young botanist named Magee, in the service of Messrs. Veitch, the celebrated florists in England. He is engaged in collecting orchids and ferns for his employers.

CHAPTER IV.

Lake Ranomainty — Tangena Poison — Quails — Andevorante — River Iharoka — Comfortable Quarters — Halt for Sunday — Game of Katra — Burial-ground — Curious Coffins — Funeral Ceremonies — Memorial Stones — Cenotaphs — Ghosts — Canoes — Ambohibohazo — Marombe — Coffee-plants — Noisome Marshes — Manamboninahitra — Rats — Ranomafana — Hot Springs — River Farimbongy — Mahela — Circumcision Poles at Ampasimbe — Dancing Girls — Beforona — Ida Pfeiffer and Lambert — Babacootes — Æpyornis maximus — A Night in the Woods — Valuable Trees — Forests of Analamazaotra — Sugar Mill — Blow-Tube — Moromanga.

Saturday, 26*th July*.—At half-past eight we had formed our order of march, and were on our way by the banks of the Lake Imoasa. We passed the village of Ambila on the opposite side of the lake, where it began to rain, which it continued to do till we arrived at the ferry across Lake Imoasa, which here joins the sea; we went over in pirogues (some of them of the frailest and rudest construction) to Andavaka Menerana (the hole of serpents), where we dried our steaming garments over a fire in one of the huts. When the rain ceased we started off again, nor halted till we came to Lake Ranomainty (Black water) near which were great quantities of sweet limes, which we found very palatable and refreshing. I also noticed several shrubs of tangena (the celebrated Malagash poison) about here. We put up a few quails, but did not get a shot. By-and-bye we came in sight of Andevorante, a large village, consisting of at least two hundred cottages, situated at the junction of the Lake Ranomainty and the River Iharoka.

We found a comparatively comfortable house at Andevorante ready for us, much larger than any we had been accustomed to before. It consisted of one large and two side rooms. The General and Bishop occupied one, and Anson and I the other of the smaller rooms, while the centre one served as a dining and sitting-room. This night Anson's cot and my hammock were both slung from the same transverse chevron that ran along the junction of the steep roof and wall. The weight of two persons proved too much for the slightly built framework, and accordingly down we both came with a crash.

Sunday, July 27th.—Halt for the day. We felt really thankful for this day's rest, and it was a great comfort not to be obliged to hurry through one's breakfast, and pack directly afterwards. To-day we were able to wash and dry ourselves and our clothes. After a bathe, and breakfast, the Bishop performed divine service. A pile of champagne and brandy cases, covered with a plaid, made a reading-desk, at which he read prayers. He did not give us a sermon, which was a relief to at least some of the party, who were eager to get outside and look about them. Directly after service all, except the General, set out to see the country. The first thing that caught our attention was a group, consisting of a man and girl seated under the projecting eaves of one of the cottages, engaged in playing the game of *Katra*, in which they seemed to feel as absorbing an interest as the most enthusiastic amateur does in chess. The game appeared something like draughts, and was played by moving beans on a board from one hole to another, but we failed to make out its rules accurately.*

* "This game of *katra* somewhat resembles draughts. A large stone or board is prepared with a given number of divisions, and small pebbles or seeds about the size of nuts, are used as the draughts or dice. The

We next met a group of traders from the interior with their families. The women of the party were very tastefully dressed, in little short jackets of blue cotton, stiff petticoats of striped rofia cloth, and shawls of bandana over their shoulders. Their ears were ornamented with silver ear-rings, three in each ear of different sizes.

Leaving the village we crossed the sand-hills to the south, and came to a long bar of sand which appeared to go right across the mouth of the river. We went along the top of the bar for half a mile or more; it is about the breadth of Plymouth break-water, and the running between the waves to escape the sea water reminded me much of that place. The slope of the sand is a very curious curve, on the outer side hollow, and on the inner one sloping. At last we got far enough to see the mouth of the river Iharoka, the width only about 600 yards, with apparently a calm, deep channel, perfectly practicable for navigation. After making a sketch we walked back to our temporary house, and after luncheon started again in the opposite direction to examine some tombs on the north-east of the village. These mostly consisted of groups (generally three in a group) of coffins placed side by side, and covered by a roughly constructed shed of ravenale, surrounded by palisades of some eight or ten feet in height. The coffins were made of the trunks of

notice of this game is attended with some degree of pleasure, from having advanced one step nearer to what is intellectual in the amusements of the Malagasy. Thirty-two small square holes are cut in an oblong board used in playing this game. Boards of this kind are kept in many of the houses; and in some places the game is followed out-of-doors, and the square holes are cut in the surface of a rock, or smooth flat stone near the native dwelling. Small stones are used in playing, and the art of the game consists in moving them from one hole to another, as the pegs are moved in the children's game of fox and geese, until one entire row is emptied."— W. Ellis's *Hist. of Madagascar*.

trees hollowed out in a horse-shoe form, covered with a V-shaped roof of boards. The coffin was supported on trestles or platforms of unhewn wood, and in front of them were generally some broken earthenware plates or dishes, and some little bits of coloured paper or cardboard, stuck into the split ends of sticks; these last are used by the natives as fans at and before the funeral, in order to drive away the flies and insects from the corpse while it remains in the house, and on the road to the grave; they are called *fikopana*. On the highest pole of the surrounding palisade were stuck, as a memorial, the skulls and horns of the oxen killed at the funeral ceremony. The number of cattle slaughtered on these occasions depends entirely upon the rank and riches of the deceased. The natives say that the use of the *afana*, or funeral ceremony, is that the dead may rest quietly in his grave. This is their last act of kindness to the departed. Emblems of their profession were generally placed at the eastern end of the coffin; for instance, the prow of a canoe placed on end at the foot of one coffin suggested the untimely end of some poor boatman. At the foot of another was a simple cross neatly carved, and but lately erected, probably showing the resting-place of one who had been tortured by the tangena and died in the cause of Christianity.

Beyond these tombs was a tumulus, and on the top of it six upright conical stones of different sizes, the largest about six feet high. Opposite the centre one was a pole, and a single skull of an enormous ox with wide-spreading horns, grinned from the top. These erections are memorial pillars, though without any kind of mark or inscription on them. They are called *fahatsiarovana* (causing to remember). Those we saw were in memory, I understood, of six Hova officers who died here during a campaign of Radama I. against the Betanimenas. It is customary, in

general, for the comrades of Hovas to carry their bodies home; and they often bring their bones from the most distant parts of the country, and deliver them with great care to the friends of the deceased, by whom they are received with funeral solemnities.

We frequently come across cenotaphs, consisting of a low wall built on three sides of a square. These are intended for the ghosts of those who die in battle, and whose bodies have not been found. The ghosts, it is supposed, are allured to repose in sacred spots thus reared for them by the hands of friends, and thereby find that rest which otherwise they would have sought in vain, while wandering with the abhorred owls (*vorondolo*) and animals of ill omen in the forests, or paying unwelcome visits to their former dwellings and disturbing the survivors.

Monday, July 28th.— We were rather longer than usual this morning packing, as our halt on the previous day had induced us to get out many extra articles. By 9 A.M. sixty-four canoes were chartered to take us and our baggage up the River Iharoka.

We had now quitted the coast line and our march led inland. We had left Tamatave sixty miles north of us, and had come south along the beach to Andevorante, crossing three considerable rivers, the Hivondro, the Imoasa, and the Iharoka, all draining a most important and extensive tract of country.

The intervals between these rivers are filled up with the most enchanting lake scenery, which extends far to the south of Andevorante.*

After some delay we all managed to embark, and I and Meller occupied the same canoe. Meller is a most amusing

* These lakes have since been explored by Captain Rooke, R.A., who, with a party in a boat, specially designed and built by himself, visited them in 1864.

companion and a first-rate botanist. He made our journey up very interesting, being able to point out all manner of rare plants, &c., that I should never have noticed. We paddled slowly along, stopping every minute for fresh specimens, so that the greater part of our fleet of canoes shot on in front. We passed the villages of Marovata, Batrasina, and Maromandia; near the latter we left the main stream of the Iharoka, and turned in a south-westerly direction along a narrow tributary by Ambohibohazo, a large government station. We pushed on for Marombe, a small village on the top of a steep, slippery, clay bank. Here, in a plantation, we noticed for the first time some coffee-bushes, which seemed flourishing. Presently the rain set in, and leaving our pirogues we took to our palanquins, filanzans, or chairs, and were carried, slipping and tumbling, through a narrow lane, in which the mud poached up by the cattle was so deep as to threaten to engulf us.

We saw no more filaos (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) after leaving the eastern coast where they abounded. Now the ravenale (*Urania speciosa*), bamboos, and the dark useful rofia palm, were the characteristic trees, and filled up all the marshy and swampy bottoms between the downs, most of which were bare of vegetation. The country towards the south is more hilly and gives some sharp outlines, forming a good background to the smooth and low undulations immediately in front. The marshes in the valleys, where the streams are choked with the fallen, decayed trunks of rofias, ravenale, and other palms, are full of dark discoloured water, and exhale noisome and pestilential vapours from the decomposition of vegetable matter. The country seemed desolate and little inhabited till we came to the village of Manamboninahitra, a snug pleasant place, but with little cultivation around it. Here we

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AMBOHIBOHAZO.

put up for the night, and the people cleared out a rice-store for us to sleep in. My hammock-lashings came down with a run, and I had to sleep on the floor. The rats, deprived of their usual supper, revenged themselves by running steeplechases over the intruders the whole night.

July 29th.—Left Manamboninahitra about 8 A.M. showering benedictions on the rats; descending a valley, and crossing some wet paddy-fields, we had a rather stiffish ascent up a clay bank on the other side of a small rivulet, which gave us a slight foretaste of the difficulties before us. There being no regular road constructed, everybody takes his own line of country. The consequence is, that there are a number of little paths, here converging, there parallel, and in other places diverging in irregular routes.

At midday we approached Ranomafana (hot water), a village on a small tributary of the Iharoka. We visited the hot springs which are in the bed of the river, the water of which was full of glittering particles of mica. The springs came bubbling up through the fine quartz sand of which the bed of the river was composed, and the water was too hot to be pleasant—in fact, almost scalding.

After this nothing remarkable occurred in the day's journey, and the night was passed, much as the former ones had been, in a village with a long and barbarous name.

July 30th.—We kept along the course of the river Farimbongy, a small stream with a pretty succession of deep pools, small cascades, and miniature rapids, with beautifully wooded banks. The *Osmunda obtusa* flourishes here, rivalling in beauty the *O. regalis* of England. There were many beautiful specimens of water plants, especially the lace leaf with its long streamers in the current, and its pink blossom just above the surface of the water. We now reached Mahela, which village is on the left bank of

this river. Here we forded the river astride the backs of our bearers, who now are getting into admirable condition.

Our next halt was at Ampasimbe. On arriving at this beautifully situated village, larger than any that we had passed since Andevorante, the most conspicuous objects in the long main street of low huts was a group of "Circumcision poles," on which the skulls and horns of the bullocks killed during the celebration of this national rite are stuck. The poles are merely the branches of large trees planted in the ground, roughly squared at the base, and with the ends of the forked branches sharpened. They are generally covered with cobwebs and lichens from disuse, and we observed them in most villages of any pretension. The celebration of this rite takes place every seven years, and this year, 1862 A.D., was the year of celebration. In consequence, however, of the year of mourning for the death of Queen Ranavola, it was celebrated privately, without any feasting or public festivity. This evening we had an opportunity of seeing the dances and hearing the songs of the Betanimena people. In many of the villages singing and dancing are much practised, and the people often assemble on fine moonlight evenings, and accompany their songs and dances with the native musical instruments, the *lokanga* and the *valiha*, or even with a simple hollow bamboo beaten with a stick, whilst the clapping of hands in constant and regular time adds effectively to the wild chorus. Five or six of the matrons of the place came forward with a large bamboo, supported at either end by a young child, and began chanting a wild prelude, beating time with short sticks upon the bamboo. Obedient to this invitation a girl, apparently about thirteen years old, came forward and commenced a somewhat monotonous dance, her feet hardly

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AMPASIMBE.

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BENGUELA.

leaving the ground. She advanced and retired, moving slowly round, swaying her supple form and waving her arms, her hands especially quivered to the quick notes of the music, to which was presently added the chorus of some twenty women, who stood round in a half-circle. After this exhibition two grown women came forward. Their gestures were less graceful and expressive than those of the girl, and their movements much resembled those of the Nautch girls of India, whilst the first performer reminded me of the Chinese dancers in the Sing-Song houses at Canton. After giving them a small present we were glad to retire to our not uncomfortable quarters. Neither rats nor creeping things annoyed us.

Thursday, *July* 31*st*.—After passing much beautiful and varied scenery, and crossing and recrossing a small river, whose course we followed for a long distance, we were glad at night-fall to reach the large village of Beforona. It was already dusk, and most of the baggage had arrived, and the shouts of the delighted Marmites as they slaughtered and cut up the promised bullock, mingled with the songs and music of the women of Beforona, who gave a very similar performance to what we had witnessed at Ampasimbe. Beforona is built round a large square, in the centre of which are a flag-staff and the usual circumcision poles. The place is notorious for fever; when Lambert and the celebrated Ida Pfeiffer were sent away from the capital to the coast by the old Queen, whom they had conspired to dethrone, their escort had orders to detain them for eighteen days in this place, in the hopes of their dying of fever. Ida Pfeiffer ultimately died of the effects of it, and Lambert suffers severely to this day.

1*st August*, *Friday*.—The morning was cold, the valley filled with fog and mist, the thermometer as low as 47° Fahrenheit. Our road during the early part of the

day lay over a succession of steep and toilsome hills, which were exceedingly difficult to climb, for the rain came down in torrents, and mingling with the stiff red clay made the footing on the sides of the hills most uncertain, while it filled the valleys between with mud and water. Later in the day we found ourselves engulphed in a vast forest, the deep shades and solitudes of which were most impressive. The silence was only broken by the dull sound of the ceaseless rain, the rushing of the torrents, and the yells, screams, and gibing laughs of the babacootes. (Appendix A.)

The natives have many wild and strange legends of this forest and its inhabitants, especially of immense birds, which, according to their account, rival the Roc of Sinbad the Sailor in size. It is not, indeed, altogether impossible that in the inmost and inaccessible recesses of these wide-stretching forests, there may still linger specimens of those gigantic creatures called *Æpyornis maximus*. Eggs of this bird are known to have been found. They surpass those of the Ostrich in size. The originals are now, I believe, in Paris, but there is a cast of one of them in Case 108 of the Eastern Zoological Gallery of the British Museum.

In spite of all the wet and difficulties of the road, the good spirits of the Marmites toiling under their heavy burdens were indomitable. Imitating the lemurs' cries, they would attract those handsome soft-furred animals (which take the place of monkeys in Madagascar), till they would come quite near, springing and swinging from bough to bough, supported by their convolute tails. The vegetation we passed to-day was wondrous. Besides innumerable large timber trees, their vast limbs covered with litmus, lichens, orchids, creeping ferns, and parasites, palms of numerous varieties shot up to a tremendous height: the candelabra-like pandanus exhibited a thousand

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FALLS OF ANEVOGA, FORESTS OF AHALAMAZADERA.

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fantastic shapes, and various bamboos shook their feathery plumes, like monstrous hop-plants, whilst magnolias, myrtles, fig-trees, tree-ferns, with their umbrella-like canopies, filled the space between. Here, in a humid atmosphere and under a tropical sun, the spontaneous growth and decay of vegetation has proceeded without interruption for centuries, presenting scenes unsurpassed in the world. The scenery, indeed, is never to be forgotten, especially one part of the road, that wound round the edge of a rapid torrent, which, flowing under a gigantic table of granite, fell in a foaming broad cascade, into a caldron hollowed out of the massive rock beneath. The ravine formed by this torrent was superb, and the cascade, swollen by the rains which had now ceased, was seen to its best advantage. The granite table formed a Titanic bridge over the torrent, and holes worn in it by eddies during past centuries showed the hissing waters beneath. The magnificent foliage met overhead, entwined with wonderful creepers, shutting out the rays of the tropical sun, and throwing a sublime gloom on the scene, lightened here and there by the bright colour and delicate young fronds of the tree-fern. We stopped awhile to breathe and admire. Everything was dripping,—trees, rocks, ferns, parasites, and creepers, ourselves also, whilst our Marmites steamed under their exertions. The road was much easier to travel where it was rocky, but oftentimes we would come to sudden chasms and precipitous slopes, slippery with clay, mud, and water. It was no joke to meet, as we once or twice did, one of the numerous herds of cattle, on their way to Tamatave from the capital, in one of these gullies; they are forced over the edge of these places, and slide, roll, or tumble all the way down without being able to stop themselves till they are brought up in the soft mud at the bottom. Magnificent creatures many of them were, all

destined to supply the carnivorous propensities of beef-eating John Bull at Mauritius, and, in a less degree, of his Gallic neighbours at Réunion.

Almost the only way to ascend these steep ravines was by climbing along the sides with a shod spear by way of a mountain pole, and pulling oneself along by the network of tangled roots and fibres, which were exposed here and there where the subsoil had been washed away. Here and there, too, huge trees had fallen across our track, and half imbedded in the clay, or hanging yet in mid-air, either afforded us a causeway over the mud, or caused us to climb and twist over or under them, or else to leave the path altogether and get entangled in the dense underwood and enormous parasitical plants on either side. Often on the summit of some of the steepest ascents we found huge piles of branches, twigs, bits of cloth, &c., the thank-offerings of passing travellers for having reached thus far on their journey and surmounted the hill. The rain presently came down again worse than ever. We found the road almost impassable, and darkness coming on, we fully realized the feelings of the natives, who call this tract "the wilderness," and more fully sympathized with the sufferings of those who, persecuted on account of their religion during the reign of Ranavalona, fled here for shelter and for life.

We were finally obliged to stop for the night in one or two wretched woodcutters' huts; half of the baggage and Marmites, however, remained in the woods all night.

2nd August.—Awoke at sunrise, and anxiously awaited the arrival of the baggage that was left in the forest. By the time we had finished our breakfast, we had the happiness of seeing the Marmites coming up, covered with mud from head to foot, the cases and packages in the same condition—not that we ourselves were much better. A bright sunshine soon enabled us to dry our clothes, and

we were ready to start off again about nine o'clock. The Marmites, however, were so fatigued that we only could accomplish half a day's journey, and complete the stage that we ought to have performed the previous day. The road was still very difficult, but the rain had ceased, and the clay was soon baked into firm walking ground. We halted, after three hours' march, at Analamazaotra, a small military station, which takes its name from the forest in the centre of which it stands. It is prettily situated in a small clearing on the side of a hill. There are a few patches of red sugar-cane, the Madagascar ground nut (*Voandzeia subterranea*), tobacco, manioc, and sweet potatoes. At the bottom of the hill runs a small brook with some deep pools in it. We put up some wild duck, and Meller shot a small diver. We found the water icy cold when we bathed. The stream is half choked by trunks of trees, snags, &c., washed down by floods, or thrown down by decay or storm. There were many splendid trees, among them the valuable Azaina* tree, from which we drew some of its yellow resin; the tatamaka, a very hard and durable wood; the colophane; the stink wood; the iron wood, which will turn the edge of an axe, being almost as hard and as heavy as the metal after which it is named; the benzoin, and ebony of various kinds. There was also the sagaye, a very tough wood, and good for shafts, the *bois de natte*, much used in building, the vangassaye or Madagascar orange, various citrons, fig-trees, and tamarinds, the nowrok tree with its

* "The Azaina (Azign of Chapelier) has been regarded by some as the most useful tree in Madagascar. It is the *Chrysopia fasciculata*. Three other species of it have been met with, viz. *verrucosa*, *pomifera*, and *parviflora*. They belong to the family of *Guttiferæ*, and produce a great quantity of yellow juice, or resin called by the natives '*Kitsy*,' and used by them in fastening knives, &c. into their handles. The tree is used for the construction of canoes, which are made by scooping out the trunk."—*History of Madagascar*, by W. Ellis.

scarlet blossoms, and the magnificent crimson Madagascar creeper. In the evening the lemurs made a great noise. Their wailing resembles that of a young child. The Marmites danced and sang in joyful anticipation of the Sunday's halt and rest, besides the prospect of a calf that we ordered to be killed for them. The natives accompanied them with the music of the bamboo valiha, and the lokangavoatavo, a sort of two-stringed fiddle made of wood, with a calabash and a quill bridge. It gives eight distinct notes.

3rd August.—After a week's good hard exercise, we enjoyed the leisure afforded by the Sunday halt. We walked and strolled about the woods in the neighbourhood, and amongst other objects our attention was drawn to a rudely constructed machine for crushing sugar-cane. It was composed solely of the round trunk of a tree; half-a-dozen or so of stout pegs or handles were driven into this large roller, one end rested in a groove cut out of a cross-beam supported on two forked uprights, the other rested upon a rudely shaped piece of timber, somewhat resembling a canoe with only one end hollowed out; on the flat part the sugar-cane is crushed by the heavy roller, and the juice then runs into the hollowed part. A most primitive mill, certainly. Some of the Marmites amused themselves to-day with shooting birds with a blow-tube; they can hit an object correctly at the distance of ten or twelve yards. The tube is about three feet long, and the arrow, which has a small quantity of fluff or wool at the blunt end, is about six inches long.

The houses here were the first we saw built of solid wood. The one we lodged in was very substantial, of one room as usual, but having a window and door both with wooden shutters. A stout post occupied the centre of the room, and the western half was divided by a loft formed by cross timbers at the level where the roof met the upright.

The side walls were formed of stout pieces of strong bark, of what tree I could not find out. Our servants were accustomed to thrust our table-knives through and through the walls of the houses by way of extemporising a knife-cleaner.

The floors were raised a foot or two above the ground. One house occupied by people making snuff was raised from the ground some ten or twelve feet on piles similar to many of the rice-stores for which it had probably been built. It formed a picturesque object in the village square with a platform as a balcony surrounding it. This evening, like the previous one, was employed by all the people in singing, &c.

Analamazaotra was formerly the boundary beyond which no Hova could pass without a passport from the Queen Ranavalola. This restriction is now abolished, and Radama allows his people full liberty to go or come. The people accordingly sang songs with words in commemoration of this new-found liberty of the subject. In all these military stations where we halted there was a Hova officer, and a couple of soldiers or more under him, whose duty it is to forward on packages, letters, &c., which have been officially franked, from post to post till they reach their destination.

August 4th.—A glorious bright day; and in the cool shades of the forest we were able to laugh at the impotent fierceness of the tropical sun. The trees were if anything larger even than yesterday. It was from this neighbourhood that the famous shaft was hewn which now forms the centre pillar or mast of the Great Palace at Antananarivo. This piece of timber, on which probably the whole weight of the roof depends, is said to be 120 feet in height, and this will give some idea of the immense size of the trees in this forest. How many forced labourers were killed or

maimed in felling and transporting this huge mass to the capital through dense forest, and over mountain and river, must for ever remain unknown. But it is certain that the transport employed was sheer corporal strength, mechanical appliances being unknown. A certain creeping, feathery bamboo, which we had not noticed before, became now a conspicuous feature in the scenery.

At mid-day we halted at a small place called Ampassapojy, and soon after recommencing our journey shot some more lemurs, and also one or two immense kites. The Monte Christo, or saloon carbine, answered capitally for shooting lemurs, as it makes little or no noise, and is easily loaded. The bullet, too small to injure the skin is carried very straight, and the ammunition and weapon are both portable.

Towards evening we discovered that we were approaching open country; the thick forest trees became less and less, the clearings more numerous, and at last, after a slight ascent, we saw a wide, open, prairie country before us.

We had arrived at Moromanga, and before us, spread in a glorious panorama, lay the province of Antankay, stretching north as far as the eye could see. To the south were wooded hills, and in the west glowing in the sun were the mountains of Ankova.

CHAPTER V.

Province of Ankay — The Plains of Moromanga — Mangoro River — Ferry at Andakana — Ifody — Valley of the Vahala — Ambodinangavo — The Pass over Mount Angavo — Mandraka River — Ankera Madinika — Granite Boulders — Ambatomanga — Tomb of Indriamato-aravalo — Fahitra — Yedien — Distant View of Antananarivo — Andriasora — Entrance into the Capital — Fat Bullock presented by the King.

August 5th.—After the mountains, ravines, and forests we had traversed, we found an agreeable novelty in the easy walking across the flats of Ankay, or Antankay. The whole of this plain has the appearance of having been under water, and during the rainy season the major portion of it must be flooded. Even during the dry season there are numerous streams; and the bogs and marshes are full of wild duck and snipe. These marshes are extensively covered with *zoro-zoro*, a tall papyrus, through which it would not be easy to pursue a crocodile, even if one had the chance; but at this time of the year they hide themselves in the mud, and are seldom seen, though they are very numerous about here. The natives, from superstitious feelings, never kill them. (Appendix B.)

After about fifteen miles across the plain we came to the banks of the River Mangoro, which flows first south, draining the plains of Moromanga, and then east through Anteva. It is the second largest river in the island, and

in time ought to become a highway for merchandise. At present, on account of its numerous cataracts and rapids it is impracticable. It is from this part of the country that the Bezanozano Marmites come. They are not tall, but strong, and are by far the best coolies in the island. From constantly carrying burdens on their shoulders regular humps are formed, which act as pads for the protection of the shoulder-blade, an ugly but most serviceable provision of nature.

We crossed the Mangoro River in some very cranky canoes, and halted for luncheon on the top of the opposite bank. Our naturalist busied himself between each mouthful in skinning the lemurs we had shot the day before. Now began a stiff climb up the hill called Ifody. For a wonder the track this time did not lie over the highest part of the hill as it always seemed to do in the forest. The tops and sides of Ifody are clothed with woods, and the finest ebony in the island comes from here, as well as a species of mahogany called mango-wood, with a beautiful grain.

Crossing the hill we again descended to Ambodinofody, a small military post, where we did not stop, but pushed on up the beautiful valley of the Vahala, which lies between the mountains of Angavo and the Ifody range. This valley has the most happy, fertile, and prosperous appearance. Fields of rice were being trodden in by bullocks. Gardens with manioc, water-melons, sugar-cane, maize, bananas, pine-apples, sweet potatoes, mulberries, &c., spread out in all directions. The valley was dotted here and there by farm-houses and villages, the markets of which seem well supplied with every necessary article.

The little river Vahala, which flows to the north, and skirting round Ifody, falls into the Mangoro, waters this valley, and irrigates the rice-fields without trouble to the

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FERRY AT AMBATANA.

husbandmen. The people seemed happy and industrious, well-to-do, and neater and cleaner than any we had yet come in contact with.

At the extremity of the valley, which terminates in a fine amphitheatre of hills, stands Mandrahoody, or Ambodinangavo; the former name means "the last impediment home." The sick or wounded Hova, when returning from some campaign against the turbulent Bezanozano, or the yet unsubdued Betanimena, on being carried to this place, would look up and say, "If I can only surmount this last hill, I shall be in my own country—If I have strength to climb this mountain, I shall live to enjoy my highland home"—hence the name Mandrahoody.

This was the first village we stopped at that had any semblance of defensive works. We had passed, indeed, one village and market during the day which was surrounded by a high, stout, clay wall, bound here and there with sticks, but the wall had fallen to decay and now was valueless.

Mandrahoody, however, although a small hamlet of not more than a dozen houses, is cut off from the side of the hill on which it is built by a ditch varying from twelve to twenty feet in depth. This moat is broad enough to enable four men to walk abreast at the bottom, and is wider still above. The approach to the village is through this ditch. The sides are covered with a species of melon, and mulberries, and shrubs of *Buddlea Madagascarensis*. The houses here were built in the true Hova fashion, with steep, high-pitched roofs, the gable ends produced crossways at the top so as to appear like long straight horns. These project beyond the roof of thatch, in length proportionate to the rank of the owners of the house. Rudely carved birds are often seen at the extremity of the horns. The roofs are thatched with the *herana*, a

rush that grows in abundance. There is a large stone as a step before the door and another downwards inside the door-sill, but the floor itself is on the same level as the ground outside. The height of the roof from the top of the wall to the ridge is often double the height of the wall from the ground, so that if the walls are twelve feet high the ridge of the roof will be perhaps twenty-four feet above that. There was a loft or upper apartment in the house we occupied with a regular staircase up to it, and a window. A door to the west and a window below were general. The best houses had partitions and bedsteads, and one had a table and some rough chairs. From this place we despatched a messenger to the capital to announce our arrival so far to Rahaniraka, the King's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

August 6th.—We had now a steep climb up the pass of Angavo on foot to a height of at least 1500 feet above the valley of the Vahala. On reaching the summit of the pass, we found ourselves again in the woods, and, thence descending into a precipitous valley, we crossed the Mandraka river, which flows into the Ikiopa, which runs into the Mozambique Channel. We had thus passed the great watershed which runs north and south. Ascending for the last time we left the woods and came into open country, undulating with bare downs, and were now 5000 feet above the sea, and in the country of the Hovas.

The first Hova village we arrived at was Ankera Madinika. Here we halted, and our men spent a little of their hard-earned cash in buying cray-fish, locusts, dried shrimps, and other delicacies, for there was a market being held in the squalid streets. Ankera Madinika was a miserably filthy place, unworthy of the province of Ankova. In one house which I entered there was the

S.P. Oliver Lt.R.A. del.

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MOUNT ANGA[illegible]

usual central post, and two lofts which occupied opposite quarters of the hut, called *salazan* and *arehan*. The fireplace was under the salazan and a fire burning on the hearth, in the smoke hung a leather bag suspended from a crook of wood. A bamboo ladder leant against the arehan. The salazan over the fireplace was covered with shreds of soot, an ornament esteemed by the proprietors as a badge of honourable ancestry. The walls were of bark, caulked with clay and dung. The doors were rudely fastened with twisted strips of ox-hide. When I returned to the market-place, I found there a man entertaining an audience with a performance on the *valiha*, which is a long, hollow, stout bamboo, about four inches in diameter, with eleven strings, made of strips of bamboo-fibre, with bridges of the same wood. The tone of this instrument is very sweet, resembling the Swiss zittern.

The village was so filthy that we did not stop to luncheon till we got out again, and found a resting-place near a small stream. I noticed several women about here with small spindles stuck in their hair, perhaps a sign of their being good housewives.

From Ankera Madinika to the capital the country is an assemblage of bare and barren downs, with hardly a tree or trace of natural vegetation, the granite cropping up on their summits in huge boulders, and rocks of fantastic shapes, but now and then the eye is surprised and refreshed by the rich bright green of the rice-fields in the valleys below. Here, in this natural citadel of rock, reside as in an inaccessible fortress those Normans of Madagascar who have plundered, devastated, and finally subdued the coast, and other tribes immeasurably superior to them in physical force, for like the Norman the Hova is small, spare, and delicate compared to those around him, and certainly not so strong by a great deal. As in other countries, wherever

nature has been apparently less kind than usual the energy of man rises superior to her, and every available inch of ground is subject to cultivation of the best description.

We next passed a very neat and picturesque homestead, called Angavokeli. Here was plenty of grass, a double avenue of the *aviavy*, or wild fig, a small piece of water, rice-fields, and plenty of sheep and cattle feeding. Not far from this we passed the village of Anoserive. Cultivation increased as we drew nearer to the capital. The sides of the hills were diversified by large patches of burnt grass, which is periodically set on fire by the neighbouring farmers. The idea is to promote the growth of fresh young grass for their cattle, by destroying the old dry grass before the rains set in. One conical mountain in front of us was surmounted by three immense granite boulders, and formed a conspicuous landmark for miles.

We now occasionally passed some of the anciently fortified villages on the very summits of the highest hills, protected by trenches and huge moats scarped in the rock. Some of them had a complete network of moats round them. The ravines, too, were terraced below and planted with rice, irrigated by water collected in these moats, and drained into the ravine. These herculean tasks must have taken generations to complete. There were many memorial stones and cenotaphs by the roadside, for it might almost be called a regularly constructed road now. Passing Amboikam, we came in sight of Ambatomanga, literally Blue Rock, so called from an enormous mass of blue granite, near which it is built. Ambatomanga is a fine village situated on an eminence. On the top of the above-mentioned granite rock is a tomb, the resting-place of Indriamato-aravalo, the late chief, to whose family the greater part of the town and the neighbouring land

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AMBATOMANGA

belong. The whole village is enclosed by double moats from fifteen to twenty feet deep, and the appearance of it is noble in the extreme.

Below the Blue Rock were some men quarrying granite. By burning cow-dung on the part they wish to remove, and dashing cold water along the line thus heated, the stone easily separates in thick layers. When the slab is detached, bands of straw are fastened to it to prevent breakage in the removal, and it is dragged by main force, with or without rollers, to its destination.

The centre of the village is occupied by a large house with verandahs two stories high, in European style, and roofed with wooden *bardeaux*, like the houses in Mauritius and Bourbon. A lightning conductor fixed at one end of the roof leads down to a small pit in rear of the building. The lower part only was inhabited, the whole building being in a state of decay. It was built by Indriamato-aravalo, the chief whose tomb surmounts the rock, and is still occupied by his heiress Rasoa.

The other houses in the village have steep-pitched thatched roofs, and have each a little terrace and wall of stone and clay round them. Narrow sunken paths lie between them.

August 7th.—Went this morning with the Bishop and Anson to examine the tomb on the top of the rock. Climbing up a narrow path on the south side, we found a plateau artificially levelled on the summit. Here we could look down upon the village beneath us, and a curious sight it was. The multitude of crossed sticks or poles at the ends of the roofs, gives a most quaint effect.

The surface of the rock had been scarped, leaving a semi-elliptical terrace revetted with stone-work, and an entrance under a stone archway, at the south-west corner. The tomb itself consisted of a large stone vault, forty feet

long by thirty-six broad, and about ten feet in height, lying north and south with an altar at the south end. The main body of the vault was surmounted by a low stone balustrade. The stone-work below was separated into partitions by stone columns. Above was a small neatly constructed wooden building, which we were not allowed to enter, and here were piously preserved the wearing apparel and effects of the deceased chief.

At this time of the morning the whole country was covered with a sea of white mist, only the tops of the hills and rocks rising like islands in the midst. The sun rose behind us, and threw our shadows, magnified into gigantic figures, on the opposite mists, producing a similar effect to the spectre of the Brocken, greatly to the astonishment of the natives, who had never noticed such a phenomenon before.

Our examination over, we left the rock, and after a hasty breakfast set out on our way. Passing several great pits for fattening cattle (called *Fahitra*), and crossing the ditches, we left Ambatomanga, and again crossing a bare down, remarkable for a large Druidical memorial stone, we descend to the bridge and village of Yedien; this was the first stone-arched bridge we had seen. It is thrown over a brook some eighteen feet broad. It was a very narrow single span arch, not calculated to resist much force. The fields on the sides of the hills were surrounded with low banks, planted with a slight hedge of red or yellow prickly euphorbia, in bright blossom. Ascending another down, we beheld the welcome sight of the distant capital, Antananarivo, about ten miles off; its palace gleaming white in the morning sun. The Marmites danced with joy on beholding it, taking off their hats, and saluting it, leaping and shouting, pointing to the city, and describing its joys and pleasures. The country here is quite open,

hardly a tree to be seen, except a few amongst the houses of the surrounding villages. About half-way from our last station, we arrived at the village of Betoff. Here we halted and mustered our caravan, and were met by an escort of soldiers, several mounted officers, and a band of music, sent to escort us to Andriasona, a small village about two miles from the capital, remarkable only for its tall clay-walled enclosures, hot clay-walled houses, and general burnt-up and baked appearance. Having brought us to this delectable spot, the escort left us and returned to the capital to announce our arrival, and prepare for our entry in state next day.

August 8th.—Last night there was such a beautiful moonlight that we sat till a late hour outside our house listening to the *valiha*, to which the natives sang and danced before us. In the morning a large escort came down to meet us, with mounted officers in most gorgeous though incongruous costumes. In compliment to them we exchanged our travel-worn shooting-jackets and corduroys for uniforms and gold lace, the good Bishop making quite a sensation in his apron and silver buckles. Our Marmites too, donned their best and whitest lambas, and altogether we were astonished at our own smartness. About eleven o'clock the procession was formed. First the band, much better appointed than the one at Tamatave; then a body of men in double file, dressed in old Guards and E.I.C. uniforms, and home-made white caps, armed with old Tower flint muskets. The whole equipment probably dates from 1817, when Mauritius paid annually to the first Radama in consideration of the suppression of slave-trade and piracy, the following articles:—$2000, 100 barrels of powder, 100 English muskets with accoutrements, 10,000 flints, 400 red jackets, do. trousers, do. shirts, shoes, and caps; 12 swords, 600 pieces of cloth, 2

horses, and a full general's costume for the king. These troops had no spears like those on the coast. On reaching the crest of the hill over against Antananarivo (the city of a thousand towns,) we were welcomed by a salute of twenty-one pieces of cannon from the heights, and now we got our first full view of the eastern side of the capital.

Antananarivo appears from the east to cover the crest and sides of a long irregular hill; the highest point culminates in the large white three-storied palace, Manjaka Miadara, 120 feet in height, painted white from the top to the bottom; the *voromahery*, or sacred eagle of Madagascar, stretching its wings on the top. It shines in brilliant contrast to the small, dingy, and monotonously coloured houses and huts which compose the remainder of the town. The Silver Palace, slightly to the north of it, smaller, and of only two stories high, adds the colour of its red walls to the general effect of the picture. Every house in the city is detached, and they are planted one above another on the hill without order or regularity, built just where their owners found it convenient to scarp, or bank up on the side of the hill, a terrace large enough for his house and yard. Every house, however insignificant, has its accompanying yard, containing its rice-store, &c.* The floor of one house is often on a level with the roof of the house beneath it. There are several European-like houses belonging to the great nobles not far from the palace. The entrances and windows all look to the west, so that approaching the town from the east it appears to be a motley jumble of houses without doors or windows. The gable ends terminate in long horns similar to those

* A well-educated young secretary of the king's one day asked me while looking at the print of a European town, "where the yards were," and expressed his astonishment that civilised people should manage to exist in houses that had no yards.

described before. Passing the suburb of Faliarivo, where a small daily market is held, we entered the town, which has no fortification or regular boundary, and began ascending the hill by a steep, tolerably broad street. The walls and terraces of the adjoining houses were crowded with Hovas, men, women, and children, chiefs, freedmen and slaves, all inquisitive, laughing and smiling good-naturedly, and making free comments on the appearance and costumes of the foreigners.

When partly up the hill, we passed through an old ill-repaired arched gateway and guardhouse, after which the street became still steeper, and the crowd and heat increasing, we were not sorry to reach the top, where in an open space round the tomb of a chief judge, were assembled all the *élite* of Antananarivo. Dismounting from our chairs, a vigorous series of introductions and shakings of hands followed, and we were then conducted to the houses set apart for us. Razafinkarevo, one of the officials of the prime minister, with the brothers Rabezandrina and Rabearana, both 13th Honours and Aides, accompanied us. The first-named has received an English education, and the two last could both read and speak English fairly. Followed by a numerous crowd, we turned down the street to the north, and after several intricate windings and twistings, descended some steps, and passing through a doorway found ourselves on a terrace overlooking the west. In front of us was a single-storied, shingle-roofed house, with a good verandah, which commanded a magnificent view. We looked over the Vale of Betsimatatatra, and across the plains to the Ankaratra mountains, and the hills near Lake Itasy. Five hundred feet below us lay Mahamasina, the parade ground of the troops, a fine Champ de Mars, surrounded by a noble amphitheatre of hill and rock. This house was destined for the big-wigs

of our party, the General and the Bishop. Anson and I found more modest accommodation in some neighbouring houses, where we also set up our mess-house and kitchen.

The luggage now fast arriving, we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as we could. In the evening we mustered all our bearers at the Kabary, or council-ground, an open green space not far off from us. These to the number of 430 were paid all their wages and dismissed with a bullock or two, which were killed for their benefit. The king sent us a fine fat ox as a present this evening, and several of the grandees and people of property sent oxen, sheep, geese, fowls, rice, &c., as presents. These kept pouring in, always accompanied with the necessary quantum of palaver and compliments. The ox sent us by the King was really worth noticing, with a hump the greatest I ever saw. The following are some of his dimensions:—

	ft.	in.
Height from top of hump	5	8
Round girth behind hump	7	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Round hump at base	6	9
Round cap of hump	2	6
Length nose to buttock	7	2
Behind hump to tail	3	1
From tail to ground	4	9
Round the loins	7	$3\frac{1}{2}$

This animal had been fattened by feeding, and confining him in a *Fahitra*, a pit in which the creature is forced to eat standing, with its fore-feet on a higher level than its hind-legs. How would this answer in England? Ask Mechi to dig a *Fahitra* at Tiptree.

CHAPTER VI.

The Union Jack hoisted again—Congregation of Christian Converts—London Missionary Society—Reception by the King in the Trano-vola—Anty-Rova—Tomb of the first Radama—The King and Queen—Rainilairivony—Ambohipotsy—Palace at Soanirana—Mahamasina—Ambohidzanahary—Troops Drilling—Mahazaorivo—Procession of the King—Anosi Lake and Palace—Grand Fête given by the French—N. R. V.—Singing and Clapping of Hands—Dinner with the Commander-in-chief—Presents delivered to the King—Nampahamarinana—The Vorondolo—Rahaniraka—Administration of Justice—Market—Dine with Rahaniraka—Mary—Arrival of the Missionaries—Sermon by Mr. Ellis in the School-house—National Games—Tomb of Rainihairo—Mustering of Troops.

Saturday, August 9th.—The King having intimated through his minister that we might hoist the British flag, early this morning we made arrangements for the same. A guard of honour, band, and a vast amount of incongruously dressed officials came down at eleven o'clock; the General's palanquin poles, eighteen feet long, being lashed together and fastened to the supports of the verandah, made a very fair temporary flagstaff. The officer commanding the troops begged the General to give them the word of command to present arms, which he did with due solemnity, while Captain Anson hauled up the Union Jack, the band playing "God save the Queen." The north batteries fired a salute of twenty-one guns in honour of the British flag being again hoisted in Madagascar. It had

been hauled down thirty-four years before by Mr. Lyall, November 12th, 1828. The British flag was first hoisted in Antananarivo by Mr. Hastie, October 1820. After the ceremony we entered the house, and entertained the officers with champagne and other refreshments, and the usual toasts of Radama and Victoria were drunk with all honours. We were informed that the populace were unwilling to allow foreign flags to be unfurled in the capital, and that it was probable that they might make an attempt to haul it down. However, we saw no symptom of any such feeling on their part. In the afternoon we got a mast forty feet high fixed in the ground; and changing the flag to this, made it a conspicuous object for many a mile.

On the General's arrival at Antananarivo, he found the card of Commandant Dupré had been left for him, but the Commandant did not call upon him personally. This afternoon the General sent me to take his card, and find out if the French Commodore intended to call first, or whether he expected the General to do so, and to intimate that the Commodore ought to be the first visitor, as his rank was inferior to that of the General. Jules Dupré is only a Capitaine de Vaisseau, and as Commodore should rank as Brigadier. The Frenchman would not, however, see it in this light, but claimed equal rank with the Major-General, and on account of priority of arrival expected General Johnstone to call upon him first.

In the evening at about nine o'clock, a gun is fired, after which time the inhabitants are forbidden to leave their houses, fires and lights are extinguished, and the watchmen keep bawling to one another to show that they are on the alert. These functionaries assemble at a small parade-ground opposite the tomb of Rainimahay. They continue their cries till daylight.

Sunday, August 10th.—Mr. Ellis called this morning.

This gentleman is chief of the mission sent to Madagascar by the London Missionary Society. He first arrived in 1853, but he has returned to England more than once since that time. He is an Independent minister, but an earnest worker. He preaches to the King every Sunday, but as we have not yet been presented to his Majesty, we are unable to attend his chapel to-day. Mr. Ellis, however, invited the General and myself to accompany him to a part of the town called Ambatonakanga, where he was about to address a large congregation of native Christians.

Mounting our chairs and passing the head-quarters of the French mission, we arrive in time at a guard-house, beyond which, in the time of the late Queen, no pigs, goats, or onions might pass, as they were considered unclean, and therefore forbidden by the idols. The road below brought us to Ambatonakanga, a suburb inhabited principally by mechanics. We found here a long shed, and a congregation of some 1200 people assembled singing hymns, and engaged in devotion. We entered the rude chapel, the people making way for us, and sat down at a table in the centre of it. The building was crowded, and the entrances blocked up by people unable to obtain places. Mr. Ellis preached to them in Malagasy, and our interpreter, Andronisa, also addressed them. It was very interesting to see, in the midst of a town but lately the very centre of idolatry, so large a congregation of Christians, and to think that at the same moment in six other parts of the town there were similar congregations of almost equal magnitude. They are in the habit of meeting early in the morning, and every Sunday at daybreak crowds may be seen in holiday and bright clothing, walking towards their respective chapels, where they remain continuously singing and praying, or listening to exhortations and sermons delivered by their elders for the whole day; they go in and

out as they please, but the major portion do not return to their houses till dusk. To account for this apparent enthusiasm, it must be borne in mind that all the Hovas are remarkably fond of singing, and music, and crowded assemblies. They hold kabarys and councils on the most trivial occasions, and are very proud of displaying their powers of oratory in public. When at home, they are in the habit of sitting for hours together singing and talking; not having much to do, they pass the day squatted either on the matted floors of their houses, or basking in the sun in their courtyards, or, strange to say, perched on the top of the wall that overlooks the street. Here they gossip, watch with listlessness the coming and going of passers-by, salute their acquaintance, make satirical remarks on their enemies, or chaff the strangers.

To people like this Sunday is a great fête-day. The excitement, amusement, and last, but not least, the excuse for putting on fine clothes, are great inducements to go to any public gathering. So that their crowding to the chapels every Sunday must not altogether be placed to the score of religion. But of what congregation in England could not the same be said? I may remark, too, that the Hovas certainly do not feel that weariness which is often exhibited after a long sermon by the majority of British audiences. Both the Christian and heathen Hovas will sing the psalm-tunes for the sake of the music, for which they have a natural taste, but often without a thought of the words they are using. Sometimes on entering a house the whole family will strike up the Old Hundredth as an appropriate compliment to us, and be rather surprised than otherwise at our not joining in chorus. In English drawing-rooms young ladies who sing pretty ballads would be much astonished if they were expected to feel all the absurd sentiment expressed by the words of

their songs, and so the Hovas are wont to sing sacred hymns and psalms, but consider the words they are uttering as something totally foreign to the matter. Very many of them, in renouncing their superstitious faith in the idols, pretty nearly renounced all religion. Rahaniraka himself, on my inquiring about the progress of Christianity among the Hovas, said, "Christianity is a good thing for the *people*,—for the lower orders,—it is a good thing for them certainly, but what good is it to us?" (meaning the high Honours)—"we do very well without it."

Nevertheless, that there are many sincere and devoted Christians *there is no doubt*, and the patience and meekness with which they have endured persecution, chains, and even martyrdom, will always form a glorious page in the history of the Church of Madagascar.

There are at least three thousand Hovas professing Christianity in the capital at this time. This is entirely owing to the former and present exertions of the London Missionary Society. This Society first sent out missionaries to the coast in 1818. They reached the capital in 1820, and were cordially welcomed by the reigning King, who seemed delighted at the prospect of learning from them many useful arts. These missionaries learnt the Malagasy language, and translated the Bible into it. On the death of the King, however, great persecutions of the Christians followed.*

Monday, 11*th August*, 1862.—This day was appointed for our official reception by the King at the Silver Palace.

* Since the above was written, missions have been established on the coast in connexion with the diocese of Mauritius and its dependencies, under the able direction of Dr. Ryan, the Bishop of that colony, who, with great judgment, has not interfered with the operations of the London Missionary Society at the capital under the Rev. W. Ellis, but confined his operations to the coast for the present, where such labour was much wanted.

Accordingly at eleven o'clock, we put on full uniform, and proceeded in chairs to the *gateway of the palace.** Here we dismounted and ascended the steps to the gate; the doors were opened, and we were ushered into the court-yard,—and a noble courtyard it was; the Great Palace rising 120 feet, the white massive timbers striking the beholder by their ponderous proportions. On the left of this, and at right angles, was the Silver Palace (*Trano-vola*), smaller, but still a fine building, and of greater finish than its huge brother. To the right of this was the tomb of the first Radama, and we were directed to take off our hats in passing it. The troops, with their band, were drawn up in two sides of a square. Three hundred men on parade composed the palace-guard. They presented arms to the General, the band playing the "British Grenadiers." At

* The view of the palace-gate, Antananarivo, is sketched from the house called Maromoditra. The principal entrance to the palace is at the northern end of the Anty-Rova, or palace-yard. It consists of an arched gateway, approached by a flight of twelve stone steps; the ground on which the palace stands being ten feet above the level of the road. Under this arch lounge the guard. Two sentries with muskets and bayonets fixed, and crossing one another, bar the entry, and no person is allowed to pass except with the permission of the officer of the guard,—unless he be an officer of the palace. This gateway is surmounted by the "Voromahery," (the powerful bird of Madagascar.)

The strange-shaped piece of wood-work, painted red and black, was originally the frame of a looking-glass, and is now by no means ornamental.

The gate has a lightning-conductor connected with it, as indeed has every building of any importance in Antananarivo.

On each side of the gateway is a small brass field-piece, the bracket trails of which are more adapted for their cramped position than for service in the field.

The roof covered with bardeaux in the foreground is that of the practising room of the King's brass band. Opposite to it is the house of the keeper of the idols.

In the background is seen the northern end of the Great Palace, 120 feet in height, and painted white from top to bottom, with the exception of the balustrades of its extensive verandahs, which are painted red.

the gate of the Silver Palace we were met by Rahaniraka, who conducted us into the reception-room, where the King and Queen were awaiting us. The King was dressed in English uniform, the Queen sat on his left. They rose when we entered. The General made a short speech, presented Queen Victoria's letter, and introduced the other members of the mission. The Bishop then presented a very handsome Bible, and made a long speech. This was one of our Queen's gifts, and was presented before the others, as the Bishop was anxious to leave Antananarivo as soon as possible. Captain Anson next addressed His Majesty, informing him that all the presents had not as yet arrived. The King is a small man, with an olive complexion, but nearly as fair as any European who has been long in a tropical country. He has a good forehead, short curly hair, small features, hooked nose, and short moustache. He deports himself amazingly well, and on public occasions is dignified and self-possessed. He is decidedly the best behaved of all the Hovas we have seen, and being neat and well dressed, is a nearer approach to a European gentleman, than one could have imagined the king of a barbarous country to be. Queen Rabodo is not at all unlike the picture of her in Ellis (page 413), but rather older-looking, and on this occasion better dressed than she there appears. The likeness of the King on the same page gives a very bad idea of him. The Queen held by her left hand her little adopted daughter, grand-daughter of the first Radama's sister; to the child's left again, stood Tahiri, her adopted son, and heir to the throne, as the Queen has no children. On the left of the children, and in front, were the court-ladies, nieces and daughters of Rambousalam and Ramonja. Ramonja was the prince of the Antsianka, and having been the first of all the chieftains to acknowledge Radama I. as king, ranks next to the blood royal.

Rambousalam, who died six months ago, was the adopted son of the late Queen, before Rakoto Radama, the present King, was born. The present King was not born for several months after the death of his father, and this gave Rambousalam a sort of claim to the throne. On the death of the Queen, a party tried to secure the succession for Rambousalam, a proceeding which would have effectually closed Madagascar to Europeans; failing, however, the chief was kept in honourable confinement, and most of his adherents were imprisoned in distant parts of the country.

Rambousalam either starved himself to death, or was murdered, though certainly not by the wish of Radama. The King and Queen took his children under their protection, and now on the eve of the coronation have proclaimed a general amnesty, and released all his adherents.

On the right of the King stood Rainilairivony, the second commander-in-chief. His elder brother, prime minister and first commander-in-chief—both offices being merged in one—was laid up with the gout, and consequently not present. Rainilairivony is very prepossessing in appearance. He had been a great favourite with the late Queen, and has always been friendly disposed to Europeans, in which respect he is unlike his brother, who is suspicious and jealous of strangers. The King now seated himself and begged us all to do the same. General conversation ensued, Rahaniraka translating. Behind the King were several secretaries and aides-de-camp, all in rather gorgeous apparel, trousers with gold stripes, French cocked hats, with an extra amount of lace, green frock-coats, gold lace, and pouch-belts. Presently refreshments were offered, and champagne handed round, and soon after this we took leave and quitted the palace with great ceremony.

In the afternoon some of us walked through the principal streets towards the southern extremity of the hill. Here

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AMPHIPOLIS, THE EXECUTION GROUND AND ISONIPSANA PALATE

we came upon the execution-ground, called Ambohipotsy, where so lately the native Christians had testified, as the martyrs of old, to the truths in which they had placed their trust. To an English mind it was scarcely possible, in this age of the world, to realise the hard, dry fact that that stump of wood was the foot of the cross, and that other the transverse beam, on which our Christian brethren had been crucified; and that the bleached, dry bones in the ditch were those of men and women who had died but a few years before for the name of the Saviour; that on the spot where we now stood, on the crest of the hill, and surveyed one of the noblest panoramas in the world, had knelt these martyrs, whilst a spear was driven through their loins, inflicting mortal wounds that did not kill at once, but made the wretched sufferers roll in torture into the ditch below, with the spears still fixed in their bodies, while not even the nearest or dearest relative dared to soothe their dying struggles, or evince by a look of sympathy a doubt of the justice of the punishment. A church, it is said, is shortly to be built on this spot, and the bones of the martyrs collected and placed under it, while the fragments of the cross are to be built into the walls.*

To the south of us lay the Palace of Soanirana with its circular park and avenue of aviavy; to the west an immense conical hill, called Ambohidzanahary, remarkable

* It is not known by what means the idea of crucifixion as a mode of punishment was adopted by the Malagasy. It is possible that it may have been derived from the Arabs or from Scripture history. The wooden frame used in the place of a cross resembled a gallows. To this the malefactor is nailed while it remains flat upon the earth, after which it is lifted up with its miserable burden, and fixed in two holes made in the ground for the purpose. Here the sufferer is exposed until he dies of exhaustion, hunger, and thirst, in great agony. Some criminals have remained for hours in the gaze of the multitude. A fire is sometimes lighted to windward of them by which they and the cross are consumed together.

for gigantic trenches cut in it, the purpose for which they were excavated is doubtful. Some assign as the reason that the great Radama, by whose order they were dug, wished to level the whole hill and failed in that herculean task; others say that they were simply dug by the troops for practice in digging entrenchments and scaling their sides. Beyond to the south and south-east was a magnificent panoramic view stretching away to the mountains of Ankaratra and the country of the Betsiles.

August 12*th*.—Mounted on a pony, lent me by Rainikotavao, one of the richest men in the island, I accompany the General, Bishop, and Meller, in their chairs with Rabearana and Rabezandrina, both thirteenth Honours, and both capable of speaking English well. The two last acting as our guides were mounted on small horses bred in the country. They took us by the north road as far as Ambatonakanga, where we turned, first to the west and then to the south, and by a circuitous route reached Mahamasina, the large Champ de Mars, to the north of which is a small piece of ground where foreigners are buried. Among the graves are those of the late Mr. Hastie and of several missionaries, who had the misfortune to die here far from their friends and home.

Crossing Mahamasina, we passed close to the sacred stone of Madagascar on which the kings and queens are crowned. We then ascended a slight hill forming a kind of isthmus between the heights of the town and the hill Ambohidzanahary. The parade-ground measures some 800 by 500 yards. We now went under the rocks of Ambohipotsy, the dreary execution-ground, and crossed some rice-fields, watered by a small stream. Still keeping in a southerly direction, we passed through a street of booths forming a bazaar for the accommodation of the troops who parade at Soanirana.

S.P. Oliver. F.R.A. del.

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AMBOHIDZANAHARY & SUBURBS OF ANTANANARIVO.

We at last came to the palace of that name (which signifies "a place well suited for inquiry.") It is built on a circular plateau, the site formerly of a low hill cut away and levelled by Radama. Round this is a double avenue of the Madagascar fig-tree; and in the centre is the palace, a large, low building, entirely of wood, with spacious verandahs and large shingle roofs, and with the initials R. R. (Radama Rex) entwined in the decorations. There were about 2000 men on parade, and being drilled in a large hollow square facing inwards. They went through the manual exercises tolerably. They had no scabbards for their bayonets, and at the word "Unfix bayonets," threw down those weapons, making their points stick in the ground at their feet.

We entered the palace, which is very handsome. The ascent to the upper story is by a curious winding staircase of very broad and shallow steps twisting right and left. We next proceeded to the King's country-seat at Mahazaorivo, the lake and gardens of which appeared most inviting. The gardens are not very extensive, but are prettily situated near the River Ikiopa. There is a flower-garden, in which cabbages are conspicuous; a small vineyard, where the vines are trained over rude trellis-work; an orchard of peaches, and large plantation of banana-trees. There are a few rofia palms, planted date-trees, and one very peculiar vacoa, besides limes and fig-trees. The garden-house is a comfortable bungalow with three small rooms and a large verandah, kitchens, outhouses, &c. Attached to it are fishing and summer-houses. Between the lake and the river is a half-finished stone-house, with arches supported on columns all round. The stone-masons were at work upon it. It is intended when finished for a banqueting-hall. Having examined all, we returned home. In the afternoon I accompanied Raini-

kotavao to his country-house, a mile out of the town to the north. Here he is building a handsome stone vault as a tomb for himself and his family. Caldwell's party has arrived with the presents.

August 13*th*.—This morning Meller and I went down towards the large parade ground at Mahamasina, and met the King walking with his court and guards in a long procession. The guards,* about 200 in number, in white undress with fixed bayonets, enclosed the procession, forming a hollow square round them. In the procession the band went first, then the court ladies and gentlemen, two and two, and arm in arm, the ladies in gorgeous evening dresses of the brightest colours, without bonnets, but any amount of wreaths and artificial flowers by way of head-dresses; fortunate was the envied owner of a crinoline. Shoes and stockings were rather at a discount, but each possessed a parasol, or an umbrella, of the gayest possible hue, except red, which is the prerogative of royal blood alone.

The court gentlemen were dressed mostly in plain clothes. Red trousers seemed fashionable, and yellow waistcoats with black or blue frock-coats or evening dress-coats. Broad beavers, gold-lace caps, and wide-awakes, were worn indiscriminately. Several of them affected the same style of cap as the King wore, which consisted of

* The first regiment formed by the great Radama was entirely of the Clan "Voromahery" (a powerful bird), a term applied to the capital and the district about three miles around it. It consisted of 3000 men. These composed the King's body-guard. The regiment of Voromahery has also the name of Fotsy-sy-mainty ("the white and black.") At the present time this regiment consists of 1200 men, and their rendezvous is at Mahamasina and Soanirana. It is the crack regiment of Madagascar; has the commander-in-chief for its colonel, and answers to the household troops at home. It furnishes a daily guard to the palace of 300 men, of which 200 move with the King wherever he goes.

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ANTANANARIVO.

the hide of the hump of an ox tanned, and shaped something between a jockey cap and the French *kepi*. These caps they use to drink out of when they are thirsty, and when they are on a journey they eat out of them too. The King himself was dressed in a suit of clothes all of stout hand-woven, undyed, native silk. He was in the rear of the procession, surrounded by his staff in plain clothes, and with a few spearmen on either side. Behind the files of soldiers followed a crowd of singing women (Tsimandoavavy), the wives of the guards, keeping up wild choruses accompanied by vigorous clapping of hands. The roads, walls, and houses on both sides of the line of march, were crowded with people who kept up a cry of hoo-hoo-oo-oo-oo-oo . . . like so many humble bees whilst the procession passed; this cry is their mode of cheering.

Crossing Mahamasina, the King visited the Queen's palace on the Lake Anosi. This small summer, or fishing palace, is built on a little island in the centre of the lake, and from this spot the western view of Antananarivo is very striking. The opposite view is taken from the north-western corner of the lake near the mills of Soraky. In the foreground is the island with its European-looking buildings, each protected by a lightning-conductor, and surrounded by a garden on a raised terrace, enclosed within a stone balustrade. Beyond the lake can be seen the noble parade-ground of Mahamasina, on which is raised the circular white plaster platform which guards the sacred coronation-stone. A canopy is being erected over it in preparation for the approaching coronation of Radama II. The overhanging rock immediately over the coronation-stone is the famous Tarpeian rock of Antananarivo, over which condemned criminals were hurled, and where many Christians have suffered martyrdom. On the right is part of the hill Ambohidzanahary, and between this and the town is

the road to Soanirana Palace. In the centre, crowning the whole, is the great Palace of Manjaka Miadara, the Tranovola, or Silver Palace, to the left, and the houses of the judges, nobles, and principal officers of the Government.

On the highest part of the town, seen just over the Palace of Anosi, is a signal station, with a cannon mounted to be fired in case of alarm; it is marked by a small tree. On the southern extremity of the hill, in the right distance, is the execution-ground of Ambohipotsy, distinguished by an upright boulder of granite.

When the King had paid his visit to this palace he returned to Mahamasina. Here he and his party sat down. Most of the French mission were here with Commandant Dupré and the French Consul, Mons. Laborde. Some of Caldwell's party and myself represented the English nation. We were soon on good terms with the young French officers, and though our knowledge of French and their knowledge of English was limited, the *entente cordiale* was a cure for all that. The King was very anxious to see the Europeans ride, so we mounted as many of his horses as were there, and raced much to his edification.

After this we all accompanied the King to a small house on the borders of the parade-ground, where we sat down on the grass, and Vermouth was handed about. We then walked up to the palace, but it was so dreadfully hot in the narrow, dusty lanes, that I made my escape and went home after being invited to dine with the King. In obedience to this invitation I went about half-past three to the stone school-house, where they had already sat down to dinner. Curry and rice formed the chief part of the entertainment. When the tables were cleared away the band struck up, and they danced a sort of quadrille. Afterwards followed some faster dance in which we joined. The name of my partner, a lady of the blackest and ugliest

description, was Razandkazana; however, she was a capital dancer. I left very early with the French Colonel of Marines in time to find our own party at dinner when I returned to our head-quarters.

August 14*th*.—Spent the day with Caldwell and his party. He amused his native visitors by showing them small balloons filled with hydrogen gas. To-morrow is the *fête* day of the French Emperor, so we have all received invitations to attend a grand banquet given in honour of it by the French Mission and Consul. We are also invited to assist at a grand mass at which the King and Queen will be present, but our good Bishop particularly requests that we will decline this part of the invitation.

August 15*th*, *St. Louis*.—This being the *fête* day of the Emperor Napoleon the French Mission hoisted their Tricolor with great ceremony, and the celebration of mass followed. At three o'clock we attended the banquet given by the French Plenipotentiary and Mons. Laborde, the French Consul, to which we were all invited to meet their Majesties. The banquet was set out in a large marquée in the courtyard of Laborde's house. It was tastefully arranged, a handsome cold collation, with plenty of plate, cut-glass, flowers, and champagne. The tent was decorated with French, Malagasy, and English flags, and with the initials N. R. V. encircled with wreaths at regular intervals.

The guests were received in the adjoining house. Their Majesties had already arrived. After paying our respects to them and to our French hosts, the whole party adjourned to the marquée. The King and Queen sat at the top of the long table, the Commandant, Jules Dupré, on the King's right, and the General on the Queen's left. After a long peroration Dupré proposed the health of the King of Madagascar together with the healths of Victoria

and Napoleon. The King and the General replied, the former in Malagasy, translated easily and readily by Laborde, the latter in French. After this, and a little more speechifying, we commenced an attack upon the viands, and everybody's spirits rose considerably. Stiffness and dulness soon wore off, and eating, and drinking, and *entente cordiale*, were the order of the day. I had a good position between the Commandant of the island of St. Mary's* and Soumaigne, a French trader, both of them had known Madagascar for many years. Behind the chairs stood Malagasy female slaves dressed in white, with horse-hair tails at the end of long rods to brush away the flies on the table. French and Malagasy servants hurried about replenishing the glasses, &c., and a regular fusillade of champagne corks was kept up with great spirit. Meantime the band outside played Malagasy and European airs. The intervals between each selection were filled up by the barbarous songs of the Tsimiriry (singing women), who squatted like sea-fowl in great numbers outside, singing odes in honour of Radama and Rabodo, and their forefathers, and keeping up an accompaniment of Kentish fire with their hands. The door of the tent was guarded by men with spears, and double sentries with their muskets crossed. The remaining guards formed a cordon round the courtyard, lounging, standing or sitting, with bare feet, white blouses and trousers, black pouches, and blue bands round their caps.

When it got dusk the King and Queen arose, and we followed their example, and the whole party adjourned to the house which was brilliantly lighted up. Dance music struck up. The Queen opened the ball with Commandant Dupré, and dancing succeeded for an hour or

* In the possession of the French, on the east coast of Madagascar, and north of Foule Point.

more. The Queen's maids of honour, got up in splendid ball-dresses, made capital partners, and went through the intricacies of a quadrille, or whirled in a galop, much better than we could have believed. The conversation naturally was limited to a few sentences, generally appropriate compliments learned a moment before from some of the interpreters.

About ten o'clock the Queen's filanzan stopped the way, and this broke up the party, which formed in procession and accompanied the King and Queen back to the palace. As it was an hour after gun-fire, the whole town was deserted and dark, but at the sound of the King's band of music the inhabitants rushed out of their houses all along our road with torches and lighted bundles of dry grass and straw. This rude impromptu illumination had a fine effect. Wherever the procession passed, men and women were ready with torches and firebrands, lighting them just as the head of the procession reached them, and extinguishing them directly after the rear of it had passed. The fixed bayonets and the brass instruments with the gilt appointments and accoutrements of the King and his court flashed in the red torchlight. The Queen and her attendants, whose gay ball-dresses were now covered with rich coloured silk lambas, were borne in their filanzans, each surrounded by white-robed female slaves. The rattle of the drums with the clang of cymbals, and the ringing brass instruments, made the old streets rattle again with martial music, the whole forming a splendid though barbaric pageant. The rear was brought up by the screaming and clap-clapper, clap-clap, of the singing women, while the cheering of the crowds that lined the walls and houses, each person waving a flaming brand, was taken up in succession from street to street like a rolling wave, "Trarantitra Ts-a-ra-a-a . . . a Tomp . . . qu-a-a Veloma Ra-da-a . . . ama!"

We left the procession and crowd at that part of the road nearest to our mess, and were glad to escape and have a quiet cup of coffee.

August 16*th.*—This morning, Mr. Pakenham, the English Consul, and his wife arrived from the coast; Anson and I went to meet them, and brought them to breakfast. They complained (and well the lady might) of the fatigues of the journey, and their Marmites appear to have been mutinous.

In the afternoon we went to dine at the Commander-in-chief's by invitation from the King. As the King is unable to entertain during the year of mourning observed after the decease of his mother, he orders one of his chief officers to represent him and show hospitality to any distinguished strangers who may visit the capital; and he himself sends contributions towards the expenses of the feast. On this occasion the King sent $30, and the same number of bottles of wine,—a very small proportion of the expense incurred by our noble host on this occasion.

At three o'clock, the fashionable dinner hour in Antananarivo, we found ourselves at the house of Rainilairivone, from the gateway of whose courtyard the opposite view is taken.

Rainilairivone received us most hospitably, and led the way to a fine banqueting-hall, round which ran an arched gallery. The arches and cornices were ornamented with small looking-glasses close together, producing a glittering effect. A magnificent dining-table, twenty feet long by twelve feet broad, with the corners rounded off, stood in the centre, covered with a profusion of candelabra, épergnes, and vases of flowers, with dishes of every description of fish, flesh, and fowl, sent up in a style worthy of Gunter. All the dishes on the table were cold. A large company of Hova ladies and gentlemen were awaiting us, and di-

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VIEW FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S HOUSE.

rectly after our arrival we sat down, in number about thirty. Soup was handed round, then rice, and endless dishes of hot curries, hashes, and stews. Rice was eaten with every dish. It was very tedious, and the conversation with the dark beauties at one's side rather flagged, so we were heartily glad when it was over.

Sunday, August 17th.—The Bishop performed divine service at our head-quarters. All the English in the place were present. In the afternoon Anson and I had a stroll. We were amused with a little incident that occurred. Walking towards Ambohipotsi, we were met and stopped by Ramanarika (the King's private secretary, who speaks English well), who said that Miss Razandkazana, a lady I had danced with several times, was on her way to make me a present of fruit. The young lady then appeared herself, with two servants carrying baskets containing pine-apples, oranges, and vegetables. I made my best English bow and my best Malagasy compliments, and the fruit being sent to our house we continued our walk.

August 18th.—This morning the Bishop and Dr. Meller started to return to Tamatave, the former labouring under severe illness.

The presents for the King and Queen having now all arrived, were arranged in the Silver Palace, and to-day was appointed for the presentation. They were well selected, and consisted of silver-gilt goblets and tankard, a full-length portrait of H.M. Queen Victoria, a gold-mounted Wilkinson rifle, scarlet silk umbrella, a coronation robe for the Queen, a field-marshal's complete equipment, and a set of musical instruments for a band of twenty-five performers.

At noon we of the staff attended the General to the palace, and after waiting some time, Radama and Rabodo

entered arm-in-arm, followed by a few attendants. After salutations and compliments, they examined the presents minutely and were excessively pleased. The Queen, with great complacency, tried on the robe to see how it would become her, and the King seemed most taken by the musical instruments.

The reception of the British Consul, Mr. Pakenham, and his wife, followed.

August 19th.— Drew a view of the capital as seen from our mess-room. Visited the Rock of Nampahamarinana, from which criminals convicted of witchcraft or sorcery were formerly hurled. In more recent times, when Christianity was looked upon as a similar crime, many converted Hovas, both men and women, here fell victims to relentless persecution, and were dashed to pieces on the broken rocks below. There is a slide at the top for a few feet, then the rock overhangs a sheer precipice of ninety feet, then again there is a steep descent for another hundred feet or so, and at the bottom some small peach-trees mark the exact spot where the mangled bodies were arrested in their hideous roll. The interest attaching to this spot was much increased by the fact, that we were accompanied by some who had been eye-witnesses of these fearful scenes,— men who had seen their friends and relations perish by this cruel death, and had stolen after nightfall to bury their bodies out of reach of the wild dogs and wild cats which abound among these rocks.

On our return by the rocks under the saluting battery, we found Caldwell and his party shooting the white owls which come out towards evening. The owl is a bird of evil omen, known by the name of Vorondolo. At first the natives looked with the extremest horror upon the attempts of the Europeans to kill these birds, and expected to see

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ANTANANARIVO.
from Rocks beneath Saluting Battery.

some dire vengeance overtake them on the spot. Finding, however, that the "Whites" suffered no harm, the Hova lads took courage, and will now bring us any amount of owls, snakes, chameleons, lizards, caterpillars, butterflies, &c. We kept some owls a long time alive in our mess-room.

August 20*th*.—We had expressed a wish to hear some good singing, so the King this evening sent down his singing-class, under the leadership of his private secretary. We had requested them to come after dinner, but long before dinner we found our court-yard crowded with them. As soon as we had finished, however, we invited them in, and they sang their principal national songs, accompanied by the usual clapping of hands.

August 21*st*.—The chief incident of the day has been seeing the King administer justice. A law-court in Madagascar is literally a court, for there is no house, and all the cases are tried *sub Jove*. The system seems to be that the twelve judges, so called, form a jury, and decide all cases brought before them. If they do not agree, the case is referred to the King. Jury, criminals, and witnesses, go at once before him. The King hears the case, decides off-hand, and dispenses judgment. When we arrived, one of these cases had just been concluded, and the court was being cleared. The King wore a rough undyed sort of silk suit, and a hump skin cap, and was sitting on a rude iron chair outside a half-finished stone building.

August 22*nd*.—An invitation was received for our whole party to dine with Ra Haniraka to-morrow. To-day we visited the Anzouma, or Friday weekly market: this is attended from all parts of the country, and is capitally supplied with broad-tailed sheep, oxen, turkeys, &c. A

quotation of the current prices will give a good idea of the expenses of housekeeping at the capital:—

	Malagasy money.	French money.
Rice per bushel,	1 kirobo.	$\frac{1}{4}$ dollar.
Turkeys, each,	do.	do.
Geese, do.	1 venty.	$\frac{1}{6}$ do.
Ducks, each.	1 lasiray.	$\frac{1}{16}$ do.
Fowls, five for	1 kirobo.	
Bullocks,		3 to 8 dollars.
Sheep, average	1 kirobo.	

We gave for a fattened sheep a loso (half-a-dollar), a kirobo, and a sikajy, about 3*s.* 6*d.* in English money. A cow with a young calf cost 4 dollars; and as to pigs, from two to four might be bought for a single dollar.

Besides these articles there were pine-apples, grapes, sugar-cane, cotton, manioc, sweet potatoes, European ditto, bananas, bundles of bamboos, papyrus sold by weight, silk in cocoons, a dollar's weight for a dollar, spun silk and coarse silk, ground nuts, cray-fish, locusts, gums, all kinds of pottery, hardware, cotton cloths, rabannas, lambas, basket-work, filanzans, hats and caps, glass bottles, rude knives, forks, horn spoons, and scissors. Agricultural instruments of all sorts were there; pails, brooms, &c.

August 25th.—While at dinner got a letter from Ra Haniraka, stating that the King wished to see me. I accordingly go to supper with Radama at Ambohitsimbona. We have a long private interview. He wishes me to stay with him as aide-de-camp when the rest of the mission has returned!

August 27th.—This morning the Queen sends us a present of fruit. I must here allude to a delicate circum-

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ANTANANARIVO FROM AMBOHIPOTSY.

stance! The Queen being old and childless, the King, it must be known, does not live with her, but has a left-handed wife called Mary, who lives at Ambohitsimbona. This lady is in reality his consort, though never recognised in public. She was confined of a son the day after we entered the capital. She is married *pro formâ* to the King's chief Menamaso, or Red Eye. The Menamaso, or Red Eyes, are a party of young noblemen, who form a sort of guard of honour for the King, and never lose sight of him. They are always on the watch against treachery and intrigue. Mary, who has now lived with the King for many years, was most devoted and active in saving the persecuted Christians from death during the late Queen's reign. She frequently hid them and supplied them with the means of escape or with money. Mr. Ellis and that school of missionaries will not recognise Mary at all; but I believe the Bishop of Mauritius wishes to bring about a divorce between the King and Queen, which would allow him to marry her. The King consults her on every question of importance.

It was debated a long time whether we ought to visit Mary, at last the General settled that it would be polite, and accordingly he paid her a visit to-day and made her a handsome present.

August 28th.—This morning, greatly to the annoyance of us all, Tahiri (the watched one), the Queen's adopted child, was taken from the care of Mr. Ellis, who has hitherto had charge of him, and handed over without warning to the Jesuits, who have established a school here. This was owing to the influence of Laborde. The General spoke to Dupré about it, but he declared that the affair was quite beyond his province. To-day we explored a part of the town to the east of Ambatonakanga beyond Ando-

halo, where, curiously enough, the King is not allowed to enter.*

August 29th.—Received a long memorandum from the General relative to what I am to do, and what his wishes are, in the event of my staying behind in Madagascar. The King continues to urge it, but I tell him I am Queen Victoria's servant, and without her permission cannot enter his service.

August 30th.—A party of missionaries, sent out by the London Missionary Society, arrived to-day, Mr. and Mrs. Toy, Dr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Stagg, and Mr. Duffus. I breakfasted very early and set off in my chair with my bearers to meet them. The ladies of the party were dreadfully knocked up by the fatiguing journey. Their houses had been prepared for them by Mr. Ellis, on the same site where years ago the former missionaries were established.

September 1st.—To-day we arranged some games to come off at Mahamasina. At eleven o'clock the King and his court arrived on the ground. We picked teams of Marmites and made them race with palanquins round the Champ de Mars; next followed a flat race, and then a race for boys. We had also steeple-chases, and a canoe-race on Lake Anosi, whither we adjourned. Crowds came to witness The King was much amused, and much astonished that none of the French *sailors* ventured to race against the English *soldiers!*

* "The origin of this is, that when "Radama's ancestor Andrianjaka stormed Tananarivo, he drove the chieftain of that place into the north-east part of the town, where he put him to death. After which the people surrendered to him, on condition that neither he nor his descendants would ever ascend to that part of the town where their chieftain was killed; and to the present time the custom is strictly adhered to, no member of the royal family ever venturing to go there."—Ellis.

In the afternoon the King sent for me, and introduced me to Mary; she is very intelligent, but not at all good-looking, according to our ideas.

September 3rd.—This evening we entertain at mess the King, the Commander-in-chief, and Ra Haniraka.

Friday, September 5th.—Attend the levée. Witness a family kabary outside the small house where the King and Queen breakfast. Their Majesties addressed the people in turn from a little window, from which you could only see their heads and shoulders, the people sitting round in a semicircle, while the elders address the King and Queen in turn.

Sunday, September 7th.—We followed our usual Sunday practice of attending divine service at the school-house of Ambohitsimbona, where Ellis preaches before the King. The court were all present, but we waited some time for the King, who was detained by the French Consul about the treaty. The room in which the service was held is about thirty feet by twenty. The grandees sat all round the room on long benches; the softer, if not fairer sex occupied themselves in chewing snuff and expectorating with Yankee-like precision and ability. A pulpit stood in one corner, from which, as soon as the King had entered, Mr. Ellis preached a sermon in Malagasy; interrupting the course of it now and then to chide the inattention or sleepiness of some of the congregation, who seemed utterly indifferent to everything except the singing, in which all joined with more vigour than harmony.

September 8th.—To-day we had horse-races round the park at Soanirana Palace; as few of the horses could be persuaded to go in the same direction, the result was amusing, if not exactly satisfactory; then followed more

palanquin races, into the fun and spirit of which the crowds fully entered. The French were all present with the King and ourselves in the large verandahs of the palace, which made a capital grand stand. Afterwards followed the grand national game with which we had especially asked the King to entertain us. This game, which the natives frequently indulge in when not prevented by any public mourning, is called "Mamely dia manga," "kicking backwards," or, more literally, "striking blue with the sole of the foot." It consists of parties kicking one another in the same manner as horses or other animals. This accomplishment is sedulously cultivated from youth to manhood, and many become desperately expert in the amusement, if amusement it may be called, where the accidents of sprained or broken ankles and legs are not unfrequent accompaniments. Hundreds at a time occasionally join in this noisy sport, forming themselves into parties as at an English football match, and rushing upon each other with amazing force, each one seeking to maintain his advanced position and repel his antagonist by kicking backwards.

On this occasion a large circle was formed by the soldiers on guard at the palace, who sat down with their muskets upright between their knees. Rainikotavao's slaves, who are kept in regular training for this amusement, stepped into the ring, stripped, with the exception of the salaka round their loins. One of these advanced from the rest and challenged the crowd. An antagonist was quickly found, stript, and brought forward. Advancing cautiously one towards the other, after several feints and counters, one turning with great rapidity nearly caught his antagonist with the heel of his foot in his face, he just missed his blow however, and was hurled violently to the

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THE FASANRAINIHJARO.

ground by a kick in the small of his back, that settled him. Rainikotavao's slave was the winner of this bout. Several other rounds came off with varied success, but the slaves of Rainikotavao were decidedly the best. There were twelve of them, and the whole twelve presently challenged any twelve of the crowd to fight, whereupon a general grand *mêlée* took place, the end of which was that the twelve new-comers were beaten ignominiously off the field. The victory was so complete that no new combatants appeared until the victors offered to fight double their number; twenty-four of the by-standers then engaged them, but the well-trained twelve were again conquerors. The temper of the crowd now was roused, and they were with difficulty restrained from maltreating the twelve challengers, whom we handsomely rewarded for their prowess.

September 12*th*.—French treaty signed to-day at noon with much ceremony. There have been sundry diplomatic hitches which have kept it back. It was read aloud in Malagasy and in French.

September 13*th*.—Attend the King's morning levée. Afterwards make a portrait of Ra Haniraka's wife. She is preparing her coronation robes. All the princesses of the blood are to wear scarlet, close-fitting bodices, and skirts long behind, so as to form a train. The bottom of the skirts are to be studded with gold spangles, for which they have been very anxious to obtain sovereigns, which are beaten out thin and cut into little spangles. It takes several sovereigns to ornament one dress in this way.

September 14*th*.—Walked to the north-west suburb and examined the tomb of the late Prime Minister and Commander-in-chief, Rainihiaro, the father of Rainivonihitriony, the present minister. The Fasanrainihiaro, as this large structure is called, consists of a square terrace of hewn

stone, the sides of which are sixty feet long; a stone colonnade runs round it, with nine arches, supported on plain pillars. On the top of the terrace is a square space, enclosed by stone arches, on short, fantastic pillars. The usual head-stone stands at the eastern end. At the north and southern corners are two minarets. The whole structure stands in a large polygonal area with arched gateway, and is surrounded on three sides with the neatly thatched houses of the keepers of the tomb.

Monday, September 15th.—To-day we gave a grand pic-nic at Mahazaorivo, the pleasant grounds of which are well adapted for anything of that kind. There was an immense party, and the French in great force. We spread a sheet for a table-cloth on a shady plot of grass sheltered by a group of banyan-trees; but this not being near large enough we spread plantain leaves at the lower end to eke it out. Meantime the cooks were at work and made huge dishes of soup, curry, and the unfailing rice. As soon as this was ready we sat down to the number of at least two hundred, the band playing at a short distance from us. It all went off very pleasantly and agreeably, but we found the way home tedious, and the steep ascent into the capital drove us all to our palanquins.

Tuesday, 16th.—There was a great muster to-day of troops on the ground at Mahamasina, and a rehearsal of the arrangements that would be made on the coronation day. The country all around is dotted with tents, the camps of the soldiers and their families who have come from a distance.

September 19th.—To-day, for the first time, we were admitted inside the great palace, Manjaka Miadana, which has been closed ever since the late Queen's death, and is now open to prepare for the coronation festivities.

PLAN OF
THE PALACE GROUNDS
ANTANANARIVO.
19th. Sept. 1862.
Late Queen's private Rooms
Houses of the Idols
Tank
Summers House
Flower Garden
TRANO VOLA
Ramp leading up to the 1st. Story of the great Palace
The old Tranovola built by Radamal
Tomb of Radama I
Tombs of the Ancestors of the Royal Blood
Archway
Guard
Glass House given by George III
Enclosure used at bull baiting
Verandah
MANJAKAMIADARA
Palisades
ANATY ROVA
Maromoditra
King's Band House
Idol House
House of Rainiandriantsilavo
Palisades
Palisades
House of the Late Queen's Prime Minister Rainijohary
Unfinished House of the late Prince Rambousalam
Rambousalam's Band House
Princess Radefoka's House Daughter of Ramonja
Rainisim
Rainimaharavo
Road from Antsahatsiroa to Tampombohitra
Daily Market held here
Scale of Feet.
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

[illegible] Lincolns Inn Fields, W.C. [illegible]

THE PALACES OF ANATY ROVA.

We spent the morning in examining and measuring. It consists of three huge rooms, one over the other, and some very small ante-rooms at each end of them. Each story has an immense verandah, or balcony, the top one having projecting eaves like the points of an umbrella. The main building is 120 feet high. One solid piece of timber, of enormous girth at the base, rises to that height from the ground-floor in the very centre of the building. This spar, cut in the forest of Analamazaotra, has been alluded to before. The whole building is painted white from top to bottom, with the exception of the balustrades, which are red. This palace was built in 1841, by the late Queen; the smaller one, Trano vola, being built in 1846 for the present King Radama and his wife Rabodo.

North of the Trano vola is the tomb of the first Radama, made of stone, covered with red cement. It rises in two successive terraces, the shape of it being a diamond, thirty feet long on the sides, and sixteen feet high. Above it is a small house with a verandah. In the interior of this house we were informed that there was wearing apparel, with wine and water on a table, and a chair, in case the *matoatoa*, or ghost of the King, might wish to revisit the place of his ashes. The tomb is surrounded with high palisades on the top of which are spear-heads. Close to the tomb is a large tank and flower-garden, in which are two summer-houses, one being a glass house presented to the first Radama by George III. Within the palisades is a small barrier, used as a refuge during bull-baiting, which amusement was carried on here during the late Queen's reign.

This afternoon all the prisoners concerned in the conspiracy to set Rambousalam on the throne were released by order of the King, and great rejoicing was caused by the general amnesty proclaimed on the occasion of

the coronation. The King dined privately with us this evening.

Sunday, September 21.—This evening the whole country was illuminated for miles round, and the whole of the Betsimatatra valleys and plains were blazing with small bonfires. The streets were illuminated by men and boys holding torches and wisps of lighted straw. It was a glorious sight, and showed how thickly inhabited the surrounding country must be. At about nine o'clock a house near the palace took fire, and a fire in Antananarivo, where the streets are narrow, water scarce, and houses built of wood and straw, is no joke!

One house set fire to another. The drums beat an alarm through the streets. The guards assembled round the palace, headed by their chiefs. The troops gathered at their rendezvous ; slaves hurried along with water in their jars and bamboos. The women from the burning houses were carried along shrieking on the backs of their slaves, followed by their female slaves skirling like sea-fowl. Above all the flames rose clear and high in the calm night. The smoke went up straight, for there was not a breath of wind, and the white palace stood out in the midst reflecting back the fierce red flames. Meantime, the neighbours and troops, led by the example of Lieut. Wadling (of Caldwell's party), quickly pulled down the burning houses and those nearest to them, and the fire burnt itself out. The consequence might have been very disastrous had there been any wind. The King warmly expressed his gratitude for the prompt exertions of Lieut. Wadling.

Monday, September 22.—The coronation is now at hand, and as yet the question remains unsettled, as to whether the representatives of the English or of the French government are to take precedence on the occasion. The King determined that General Johnstone, as representative

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HOUSES OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND PRIME MINISTER, ANTANANARIVO.

From the house of the late Rohaniraka.

of the English nation, which had done so much for Madagascar, should stand on his right; but Dupré declared that if that were the case, he would leave Antananarivo, go straight to Paris, and return with the Emperor's leave to bombard Tamatave and to burn the capital. The two consuls, Pakenham and Laborde, are to settle how the Europeans are to be placed, but it must be an edifying sight for the king of a half-civilized country to see the bitter jealousy between the two great allied powers.

The country was again illuminated this evening; the town, however, was in darkness, the fire of the preceding evening having deterred the people from repeating the experiment.

Tuesday, September 23.—To see Antananarivo on a fine winter morning is a magnificent sight at any time. Owing to its height the clouds settle upon it during the night, but when the sun rises its rays gradually dispel them, and they roll along the sides of the hills in long fleecy masses. As they moved off this morning, they disclosed the troops arranged in battalions, deploying into the lines previously marked out with banners, and—tell it not in Woolwich or Aldershot—with cords also, so as to enclose the area in front of the sacred stone. At the same time, from every path and road, from town, suburb, and village, as far as you could see in the far distance of the Betsimatatra valley, lines of gaily-coloured crowds continually streamed, one and all hastening forward towards the sacred stone.

I do not think a single Hova in Antananarivo could have slept the previous night, for every house was crammed with people from the country, either guests or lodgers, and the strict curfew regulations were relaxed. There was a noise of revelling, singing, and chattering, the whole night; and all were so anxious not to be late and to secure good

places, that I believe most of them dressed over night. Wretched were the unhappy slaves whose duty it would be to stay in the house and guard it whilst the family were absent at the great spectacle, and many, I suspect, played truant. In the town itself great confusion reigned. In front of every house the bearers and slaves in their best clothes prepared the filanzans, which were all decorated for the occasion, with silk, and cloth, and gold. As their occupants were carried off in them, many were the collisions between those going to, and those returning from, the palace, where everybody of any standing at all hastened at daylight to attend the levée and congratulate the popular prince on his coronation.

Notwithstanding that the French party had used all their influence to induce his Majesty to don a magnificent suit of royal robes brought from France, Radama persisted in his original intention of being crowned in English uniform, and wore accordingly that of a British field-marshal, which we had presented him with from the Queen. The Jesuits set about a report, that they had crowned the King privately, with all due Roman Catholic ceremony before daylight; but this I cannot believe. Radama is superior to superstition, and would, I am perfectly sure, never allow himself to be subject to any such imposition. The Jesuits, however, have spread such scandalous reports about the Bishop, Mr. Ellis, and the Nonconformist missionaries, that it is clear their veracity is not to be depended upon.

The King received all visitors at the Trano vola in plain morning clothes, and by seven o'clock the procession began to form outside the north gate of the palace. Meantime, the road from the palace to Mahamasina was lined with troops in single file, banners with the insignia of Radama II. being planted at intervals throughout the whole dis-

tance. The crowds still continued to pour in in the direction of the sacred stone ; and the crush was such that with difficulty we passed in our filanzans up to the palace.

In the verandahs of the Trano vola were assembled most of the chiefs and high honours in the island, with whom we were now on tolerably intimate terms. The dresses sported on this occasion would have put to shame many a masquerade or fancy ball in Europe. The amount of bright-coloured velvet and gold embroidery was really astonishing.

In the court-yard were the singing women of the town and provinces, singing songs in praise of Radama's forefathers, the clapping of hands being kept up so vigorously as almost to overpower the efforts of the King's band, who, twenty-five in number, played very accurately selections of marches, and other pieces of music. The singing women were all in white, and squatted like wild fowls to the number of two or three hundred, in the furthest corner of the court-yard.

While the King was dressing we kicked our heels outside, impatient of delay, for we had had no breakfast, and there seemed no prospect of any. It must have been at least eleven o'clock when the King appeared in his uniform; he was speedily joined by the Queen, who was got up royally indeed, but my knowledge of ladies' toilette technicalities is too limited for me to attempt to describe it. The King mounted his horse, and the Queen her palanquin, and, accompanied by her little adopted daughter, preceded the King. The whole procession moved on, the members of the English and French missions following behind the King, who seemed rather nervous on his spirited horse, which was fretted by the slow pace at which the pageant was obliged to move, and had to be led by a groom. Laborde and I walked down together, being unable to get

our palanquins in the crowd. The remainder of the day's proceedings shall be told in the words of Mr. Caldwell, who gives the following graphic account of the coronation ceremonies, published in the "Commercial Gazette," December 1862.

"The long-expected 23rd September was ushered in at grey dawn by the roar of all the numerous cannon so profusely scattered over the rock on which Antananarivo stands, and which waked from their heavy slumbers the people not usually remarkable for early rising. The King having told us the previous evening, that he would like to start early, if possible, to avoid the hot sun, and having fixed seven o'clock as the hour at which we should come to the palace, we were there with true British punctuality, and followed in a few minutes by the British Embassy. As we walked up from our quarters, close by the palace, we found the main street lined with soldiers in red coatees, white trousers, and shakos; and outside the arch leading into the palace yard, a very large assemblage of officers of the 14th and inferior ranks, including many of the ministers, judges, and other functionaries. They were all dressed in new uniforms of very good taste, many of them French diplomatic or civil-service gold-embroidered suits, made to order at Paris, and a few home-made suits of scarlet cloth, or richly coloured velvet, in gold *native* embroidery of superior quality, and in excellent taste. The palace gates were wide open, no sentries with crossed arms impeding free passage to-day; and inside were drawn up on two sides of the square a considerable number of troops, with the King's band, who were furnished with the instruments just presented to the King by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and called after her 'The Victoria Band.'

"On our arrival, we were conducted inside the stockade, surrounding the Silver Palace, where we found assembled

most of the King's and Queen's households, and paid our respects to his Majesty, who had not yet begun to dress for the ceremony. Within this enclosure also came the 13th Honours, and the officers of the palace, all likewise in handsome uniforms, more plain and elegant than those of last year; the commander-in-chief, Rainilaiarivony, in a velvet tunic embroidered in gold, that would have done credit to Bond Street; and our friend Rainikiotava, Minister of Public Works, staggering under a heavy brass helmet, profusely ornamented with imitation gems of every size and colour, which, after being duly admired, he exchanged with eagerness for a lighter cocked hat, apparently quite satisfied with having the unique helmet carried behind him by an aide-de-camp.

"The body-guard of Menamaso were also on duty inside, dressed in Lincoln green tunics, with red facings and red shakos, each man armed with a spear, the blade and staff of which were entirely made of silver.

"About eight o'clock the French mission, the English and French Consuls, and the rest of the foreigners arrived; Commodore Dupré wearing a plain black dress suit, having sunk his naval rank in the superior one of plenipotentiary of his Imperial Majesty, but decorated with the Legion of Honour, the Bath, and his other crosses. The King then retired to dress, soon afterwards appearing in a full-dress British field-marshal's uniform, which had been presented to him a few days before from Queen Victoria, and which fitted him as if made on the spot, and her Majesty then coming up with her personal attendants, every one began to await the move.

"At about half-past nine the King mounted a handsome Egyptian horse, just brought up by Mr. Lambert. The Queen came next in very elegant Parisian-made gilt palanquin, lined with rich crimson damasked silk, her little

daughter at her feet, and a large and richly ornamented scarlet umbrella fixed over her head. She was dressed in a white satin skirt and rich crimson coronation robe, embroidered with gold, a present from the Empress of the French, and looked remarkably well. She was carried by eight men at a time; all her bearers dressed like her body-guard, but with caps instead of shakos. Just behind came General Johnstone, Commodore Dupré, and M. Laborde, the French Consul, in palanquins, and Mr. Lambert on horseback, and a few of the principal officers, and then the guard formed up, leaving out indiscriminately all the other Europeans, official or visitors, the Hovas, and a prodigious crowd of persons, who had to get through the archway as best they could. The greatest good humour, however, prevailed; English, French, and native uniforms, and black coats, were mixed up in one dense mass.

"From the palace gate to the Champ de Mars below, about a mile and three quarters following the contour of the road, the way was lined with troops, and at each hundred yards, was on either side a mast with a streamer, white bordered with red, and in the field R. R. (Radama Rex). As the cortege passed on, the roar of artillery began, and continued during the time it was in motion; the only halt being made at Andahalo, a large open triangular place, about three-quarters of a mile from the palace, and one third of the way down the mountain, where the King dismounted, and stood upon some traditionary stone there for a few minutes.

"The procession arrived below at about half-past ten. The King, Queen, the nobles, and the English and French ambassadors, and those who had got within the guards, mounting the steps that led up to the dais erected over the sacred stone, a very handsome and elegant pavilion, designed and executed by the French Consul, M. Laborde.

So great was the crowd below, and so difficult to get through, that the rest, of both English and French missions, and all the visitors, could only get up about a quarter of an hour later; but they thereby gained the advantage of a better view of the moment when the King took his crown and placed it on his head, and then crowned the Queen. He then advanced to the front, drew his sword, and addressed the people in a spirited and stirring speech, which appeared to elicit unqualified approbation from his people. As, even at the time, this speech was much talked of, I made particular inquiries about it, and am enabled, on the testimony of the most trustworthy Hova nobles, and some most intelligent and educated Malagasy gentlemen, not Hovas, whom all those at Antananarivo will know as high-class men, to give a flat contradiction to the statements, that he ever mentioned in it that he was King by the will of God, and the consent of the European powers. What he did say, according to those who understood the language, was to the following effect. He was now King of Madagascar, not because he had tried to be so (a phrase evidently pointed at the reports so industriously circulated by some parties, and even printed, accusing him of being privy to several conspiracies against his mother the late queen), but because God had willed it, and that he intended to govern his people with kindness and justice. That such as they had found Prince Rakoto, merciful, tender of shedding blood, and even solicitous of enlightening his country, and advancing its material interests, so they would find him now as Radama II. Such a declaration would, indeed, touch the hearts of the dense multitude around him, so long and so cruelly oppressed in former times, and frequently, in all probability, ill used in the Queen's name, without her knowledge, by wicked and rapacious officers, who turned her known severity and iron will to their own advantage, under pre-

tence of acting by her directions. During this part of the ceremony, a royal salute was fired from some brass field-pieces, cast many years ago at Soatsimananapiorani, which would have done credit to the best European foundry. On their way down the previous day, I had stopped one as it was being taken down from the arsenal in the palace, and examined it minutely.

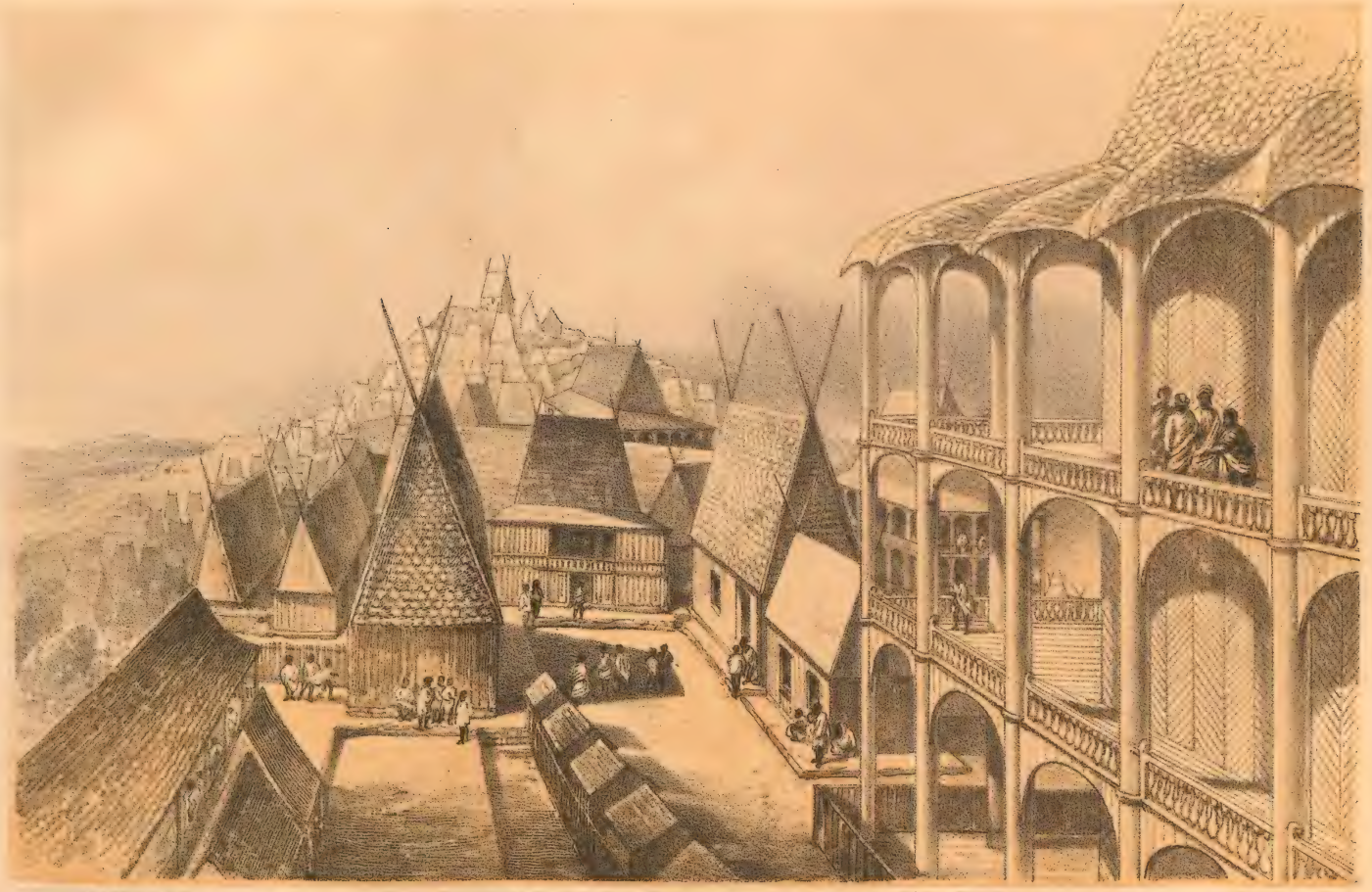
"To a stranger who did not understand the language, the most interesting part of the ceremony, the homage to the King, now began. For some reason or other, the original programme of fixed places previously appointed, both in the procession, and at the ceremony, was not carried out, and every one found a place for himself as best he could. As it was fearfully hot in the raised gallery on the right, appropriated to the ministers and visitors, I got round to the back of the dais, upon the wall surrounding the sacred stone. Here some of the officers round the royal pair made me advance till I was close behind the Queen's chair. General Johnstone and Captain Anson came to the same place; Commodore Dupré and Messrs. Laborde and Lambert were on the edge of the wall, on the right hand side; and Mr. Pakenham, the English Consul, found his way into the ladies' gallery on the left, where Mrs. Pakenham was in the midst of a large assemblage of the highest noble ladies of the Hovas, many being dressed from head to foot in scarlet, and with even scarlet boots and scarlet parasols, the peculiar privilege of wearing which, belongs to those who have royal blood in their veins. The King's chair alone was allowed to rest upon the sacred stone, the Queen being on the surrounding wall, none (under pain of death in the last reign) daring to touch this peculiar talisman, which is, apparently, a rough granite stone, accidentally cropping up in the plain, about seven feet high, five wide, and surrounded with a circular wall of four feet thick.

In front and at the back of the wall, were steps leading up to the flat summit of it; and on either side, running north and south, were the two long uncovered galleries of 150 feet each, already mentioned. The front faced therefore to the west, towards the artificial lake and island of Anosy, where the late Queen's summer-house is situated, and a broad avenue had been left right in front about 250 feet long. The rest of the space on either side had been partitioned off with ropes for the different tribes, and, including the soldiers present, there cannot have been much less than 100,000 people on the plain. The middle avenue, up which we had come, was densely crowded also, and it was along it that each of the chiefs and nobles came to present his *hasina*, or tribute of a dollar, and made a speech to the King, the dollar being received by the King's private secretary Ramaniraka or his assistant, and dropped into one of the two boxes covered with red cloth, at the top of the wall. Among others who crowded near the sacred stone, were the idol keepers with their idols, carried on long poles, and generally covered over with scarlet or other cloth; and apparently a mass of something or another without any definite shape. These, however, the King paid no attention to (though neither did he affront them), notwithstanding their pressing up so close to the platform that they invaded the place of, and got mixed up with, the band of *Les Enfants de la Ressource*, directed by the Jesuit Missionaries, who also had a banner on a high pole, as we see in processions here. At length, about half-past twelve, when chieftains from all parts of the kingdom, North, South, East, and West, Sakalava, Betsileo, Menabé, Betsimasaraka, Betanimena, and many others whose names I do not recollect, had made their submission, the procession reformed, and proceeded to climb the hill again. Here the same scrambling for places again took place, and all went

on merrily till the party reached Andahalo, where the King's horse reared, and his Majesty, though an excellent horseman, would have received a severe fall had he not been caught in the arms of Mr. Eardley Wilmot, of her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers, who, not having been able to find his palanquin, was walking immediately behind the King. The procession, after a slight stoppage, proceeded to the palace, many of us falling out, as we passed our residences, to take some breakfast, and change, before going to the banquet at half-past three.

"The coronation banquet was served in the large hall of the large palace, which was now first publicly opened since Queen Ranavalo's death, although we had been allowed to examine it minutely on the 19th, when the preparations for the banquet had been commenced. It is a really magnificent building, though seldom seen to full advantage, from being surrounded on all sides by other buildings, or by walls, which obstruct a direct view of the lower story; and the best point to judge of its noble elevation is from the stone archway; on the north side of the yard, though the north and south façades are smaller than the east and west one, the front being, in fact, the western one. It is built altogether of wood (dragged from forty to ninety miles distance with prodigious labour), on the plans and under the personal direction of the late Queen, and was completed in the short space of three years. It consists of three principal stories and three attics, besides the top of the roof; and each floor is, according to the Hova custom, divided into one large central room, lighted only by a door in the west, and two smaller side rooms or narrow closets; the lower story is rather low for its size, but the first floor room is as finely proportioned as it is possible to be.

"The tables were laid in the form of the letter H, and



VERANDAH OF THE GREAT PALACE and TOMBS OF THE KINGS.

the principal guests arranged as follows, no native under the rank of 15th Honour being admitted to the banquet.

"Covers were laid for 120 people, and the repast was admirably served. In front of the King and principal guests were the large silver-gilt flagon and six cups to match, presented by the British Mission on the part of Queen Victoria, and the table was adorned with many native works of silver, and two handsome gold vases from the Silver Palace, and on the sideboard were, amongst other ornaments, two silver vases, four feet four inches high, all of native manufacture. The viands were of excellent quality and abundant, and the wines very fair, and for the first time we saw locusts and water-beetles served on a Malagasy table. The first toast, the King's health and the prosperity of his kingdom, was proposed by Commodore Dupré, to which his Majesty replied by the healths of Queen Victoria and the Emperor of the French, after which General Johnstone proposed her Majesty Queen Rabodo, and the toasts were brought to an end by the King coupling in a short speech, said to have been full of humour, the healths of his Minister for Foreign Affairs and of the two Consuls present. The banquet was over about six o'clock.

"As soon as the Queen had retired for a short time, and changed her robe for the crimson velvet mantle sent her by Queen Victoria, dancing commenced; the ball being opened by the King, who danced with one of the ladies of the court, and the Queen, who danced with the Commodore; after a gay and pleasant evening, during which both English and French vied with each other and with the Court in keeping up the gaieties of the day, every one retired at about half-past nine, after drinking the health of their Majesties.

"The 24th September was spent in arranging for our

proximate departure until half-past four, when all the visitors again repaired to the palace, to witness an exhibition of fireworks on the lake below from the balcony of the palace. General Johnstone gave his arm to the Queen, the King and each gentleman also conducting a lady, and ascending to the upper floor which commands a view of from twenty to fifty miles in every direction. The only fault of this pageant was, that the fireworks were commenced a quarter of an hour too soon, at sunset; but they were of excellent quality, notwithstanding that two years had elapsed since they were brought out from France. The evening again closed with dancing, the company retiring at the same early hour of nine."

After the coronation, the English and French Missions left the capital with as little delay as possible, and, reaching the coast without any remarkable incident, embarked on board the "Gorgon" and "Hermione." The writer accompanied his party, having given up all thoughts of remaining behind on the staff of the King of Madagascar.

APPENDIX.

Note A.—Babacootes.

On our return from the capital, whilst traversing the forests before arriving at this village, two good specimens of the babacoote, *Propithecus diadema*, were shot by some of our party. On entering Beforona, our hanging up of their dead bodies preparatory to skinning them attracted a great deal of attention. One of the chiefs of the place came forward, and with tears in his eyes deplored the slaughter of the animals, begging hard for their bodies. He declared that they, the tribe of Betanimenes, had originally sprung from the ancient and respectable line of Babacootes. We mildly tried to prove that man was a distinct species; that we could admit the Betanimenes to be men and brothers, although belonging to a different variety of the human race; but we strongly objected to look upon the *Propithecus diadema* in that light. Our arguments, liberally backed by quotations from Blumenbach, were perhaps not rendered very correctly by our interpreter, who probably believed in the truth of this legend himself. However, at all events, they signally failed to convince this dark-skinned anthropologist, who, in support of his curious theory of development, related that years ago, his father, when climbing a tall tree in the neighbouring forests in search of wild honey, was precipitated from a great height in consequence of a bough breaking. A large babacoote below, seeing his relative's danger, and actuated by the purest feelings of family affection, stretched out his arm and caught him, and thus

saved him from certain death. Our chief related this story with perfect gravity, and expected us to think it a clenching argument. He even offered us money for the bodies, but we compromised the matter by keeping the skins ourselves and giving him the carcasses, much to the disgust of some irreverent sceptics among our Bezanozano Marmites, who had expected them as a savoury addition to their evening meal.

The extraordinary similarity of the cries of the Babacootes to human screams, cries, and moans, has induced the belief among the natives that these creatures are akin to them.

Note B.—Crocodiles.

A day or two after we had passed the plain of Mangoro, Mons. Lambert followed, bringing among other presents for the King an Arab horse with an Egyptian groom, and some donkeys. Whilst crossing one of the small marshy streams, the greatest depth of which could not exceed four feet, the horse was attacked on his left flank by a huge crocodile (the marks of whose teeth were shown to me after the horse arrived at the capital). The groom jumped off on the side farthest from the crocodile, who was repulsed by a kick in its jaws from the wounded horse. Disgusted with this reception the crocodile next attacked a Malagasy slave who was leading a donkey, dragged him under the water and destroyed him.

Note C.—The Revolution.

In May 1863, barely eight months after his coronation, which we had seen celebrated with so much pomp and solemnity, a complete revolution occurred in Madagascar, which deprived King Radama of his life. The fate of this prince was truly melancholy. His name is now forbidden to be spoken, and no man is allowed to inquire for the place of his burial.

The following account of the revolution is extracted from a letter written by Mr. W. Ellis to General Johnstone, and published in Mauritius.

"Antananarivo, May 26th, 1863.

"During the last fortnight a revolution, as complete as any ever known to have taken place in this country, has occurred. Towards such a crisis events have been for some time past inevitably tending; but not even the parties most immediately concerned in accomplishing it expected that it was so near, or that it would proceed so far as it has already gone.

"Though I had seen nothing to excite alarm during the day the revolution commenced, as I proceeded towards dusk to Andohalo, I found the city in great commotion: armed men in small parties or singly were hurrying through the streets; women and children, followed by female slaves carrying their most portable valuables; while companies of armed men, chiefs or nobles and their dependants, were crowding in along the great northern roads towards the Minister's residence.

"Some of the grounds of dissatisfaction which have now brought the reign and life of Radama to a close, have existed ever since his accession to the throne. Among them may be mentioned his destruction of an important source of the revenue of the country, by abolishing all duties on exports and imports. From this source the pay of a number of officers was derived, and from the first the nobles and officers have expressed their disapproval of the measure, while the people have been disappointed by finding scarcely any perceptible increase in sale or decrease in the price of the articles on which duty was formerly paid. Another cause of dissatisfaction has been the use of intoxicating drinks by the King, as they say his most injurious measures have been completed when he has not been sober: and their first stipulation was to prevent evil from this source in future. A third, and perhaps the most serious cause of offence on his part, has been the excluding from his councils, and from all beyond a mere nominal share of the government, of many of the highest nobles and most intelligent men in the country, and surrounding himself with a number of young men, some of them grossly immoral, most of them without position or stake in the country, as his secret and confidential advisers. Men whose families had been closely connected with the government during the last two years, some for a much longer period, men who had taken no secondary part in placing Radama on the throne, did not like to see their rank and power ignored and their places filled

by men heretofore unknown; many of them with neither character nor ability, and whose chief recommendation might be, that they would be ready to advise and commend such measures as would be agreeable to the King, and to contribute to his amusement.

"The King possessed many amiable and attractive qualities. His frank good nature won the hearts of the people, and his desire to gratify their wishes could scarcely fail to secure for him the affection of many. At the same time, the instability of his character, the want of any sound fixed principles of government, weakened confidence in his rule; while the few and feeble efforts put forth to prevent and repress, or even punish, crime when detected, grieved and disappointed his best friends, some of whom asserted that crime was increased by the impunity with which it was perpetrated; yet all were willing to wait in hopes of a change for the better.

"Extraordinary efforts have been made during the last three months to restore to the idols and other objects of superstitious reverence their former influence. A disease, resembling in some respects an intermittent fever, appeared also in some of the adjacent villages, and those affected by it were said to be unconscious of their actions, as well as to be unable to refrain from running, jumping, and dancing. These people also pretended to see visions and to hear voices from the world of spirits. They stated that they had seen the ancestors of the reigning family, and had received messages from them to the King, first, that they, viz. the spirits of his ancestors, were coming to tell him what to do; and afterwards to declare that if he did not stop the praying among the people, some great calamity would overtake him. The King seemed to be deeply interested in the disease which was said to be sent by the idols, who were enraged at the increase of the praying in the land. Though no one had more frequently ridiculed the idols than the King had done, he did not seem displeased by these pretended messages; and when the disease appeared in the capital, all the crazy dancers went to his house, where they were treated with great respect, and an order was issued requiring all persons meeting them in the streets to take off their hats as they passed them, giving to them the same homage as was formerly paid to the idols when carried in procession through the streets. The dancers being most of them female slaves, all of them heathens (for no single Christian in the capital or country was affected with the disease), it

was exceedingly galling to high Hova chiefs to be obliged to uncover their heads to those whom all but the most ignorant of the people considered as deluding and deceived.

"Shortly before this time, a female for whom the King had long shown great regard, associated herself with the Christians in their worship. The King was exceedingly angry. He declared that Jesus Christ was only a man, and that he himself was above Jesus Christ, and only below God. The female above referred to was visited with his extreme displeasure, because she would not give up praying and receiving Christian instruction. I have been repeatedly told that this circumstance, more than any other, caused the King to regard with disfavour the Christians, and that on this account alone it was intended, according to one of the King's steady friends, to put one of the preachers to death. At the same time the influence of the idol-keepers increased, and it was said the disease would increase until the praying was stopped. A bullock was killed at the palace by order of the King, and offered to the idols, and it was reported that the heathen party meditated an attack upon the Christians. The King proposed to enact a law, that if any persons wished to fight with fire-arms, swords, or spears, they should not be prevented, and if any were killed the murderers should not be punished. Two days afterwards, viz. on Thursday the 7th instant, he officially announced his intention to issue that order. His friends and some of the nobles remonstrated, but he would not forego his purpose. It was also said that the Prime Minister and some of the nobles were to be assassinated.

"The announced intention of the King to issue the order which would have legalised murder, created great consternation among all classes, and the next morning the Prime Minister, attended by from one hundred to one hundred and fifty officers and heads of the people, went to the King, remonstrated with him against the issuing of that order, telling him it was his duty, as the father of the people, to prevent violence and murder instead of sanctioning it; and when the King refused to change his purpose, the Minister went down on his knees and entreated the King in vain to pause. He then rose, and standing in front of the multitude who attended him, said to the King: 'Do you, before these witnesses, declare that if any one wishes to fight, to attack any other person with fire-arms, spear or sword, you will not prevent him, and that if he kills any one you will not punish

him?' The King replied in the affirmative. 'Then,' said the Minister, 'we must arm.' Turning from the King to his friends, he said, 'Enough, so be it. Let us return to breakfast.' I was struck by the grave and silent aspect of the long procession as it followed the Minister to his own residence. Here they determined to prevent, by force, the promulgation of the law, and to destroy the authors of it. Messengers were despatched to the adjacent villages and provinces, and before daybreak the next morning the whole city, including the palaces, with the exception of the southern extremity where the King resided, was in the possession of the armed bands of the ministers and nobles. The first effort of the nobles was to seize more than thirty of the Menamaso,* against whom they drew up a formal indictment extending to twenty specific charges, the most serious of which there is reason to fear were too well founded. Ten of the Menamaso were taken and soon afterwards put to death; several fled, some of whom have since been taken, the rest took refuge with the King, who after long resistance was obliged to give them up to be put in chains for life, but they were on the following day also put to death. The King is also reported to have threatened that he would avenge his confidential advisers on their enemies; and this, it is said, induced them to change their purpose, which was at first to remove the Menamasos and put good men in their places, but the menace of the king caused them to feel that his removal was required for their own safety, to say nothing of the danger of civil war. The King died the next morning. A paper was speedily drawn up by the nobles, setting forth the chief principles on which they wished the government to be administered. This document they sent by four of the highest of their order to Rabodo, stating that if she was willing to govern according to the principles set forth in that document, they were willing to offer her the throne, but that if she declined they must look elsewhere. After reading the paper and receiving explanation on some of the points,

* These men were the confidential secret advisers of the King, on whose recommendations or by whose influence, punishment or acquittal for offences was awarded, complaints dismissed, or honours and offices distributed or sold, &c. &c. They were also a sort of inquisitors who secretly investigated all informations or accusations brought to the King against any of the people.

the Queen expressed her full and entire consent to the articles set forth in the paper. When it had been signed by the Minister on behalf of the nobles, and by the Queen, the firing of cannon announced the inauguration of a new reign. A copy of this paper was shortly afterwards brought by some officers and read to us. At the same time, a kabary was held at Andohalo, where the compact between Rabodo and the nobles was read, and under the title of Rasoaherena, Rabodo was proclaimed Queen of Madagascar.

"Within an hour afterwards, an officer from the Minister required our attendance at the palace, where we were introduced to the Queen, who wore the crown and gold-embroidered scarlet lamba of the Hova Sovereigns. Her countenance was dejected, and her hair partially unplaited, a sign of mourning. We assured her Majesty, that as the government was changed, we were happy to pay our respects to her as sovereign; that the friendship which her predecessors and herself had shown towards the English warranted us to expect that the existing friendship would be preserved, and that we should receive protection, presenting at the same time our *hasina*. Her Majesty in reply said, that she was glad to see us, that the English had always been friendly towards Madagascar, and she wished that friendship should continue. It was her sincere desire, she added, to be friendly with England, France, and all other foreign nations, that she would protect all foreigners coming to Madagascar, and encourage their efforts to do good to the people. Her Majesty, I have been informed, repeated to the consuls of England and France her desire to perpetuate the existing friendly relations between Madagascar and those countries, and assured them that protection would be given to the subjects of both countries coming to Madagascar. I have also heard that the present government has signified to Her Majesty's Consul here its wish to maintain the treaty entered into last year between Radama and Queen Victoria.

"You will doubtless have been made acquainted from other sources, with the basis on which the present government has been organised. It avows,—

"Friendship towards other nations;

"Free commercial intercourse with foreigners and protection of the latter;

"Perfect liberty for the profession, worship, and teaching of Christ-

ianity, promising the same protection and civil privileges to Christians as are given to other portions of the community;

"Domestic slavery is continued, but owners are at liberty to make their slaves free;

"The army is to be kept up;

"Death is not to be inflicted on the will or order of the sovereign alone, but according to law and after trial;

"The sanction or approval of the heads of the nobles and people is to be given to any proposed law before such law is promulgated and binding on the people.

"Such are some of the chief items of the document which the Queen and nobles agreed to, and signed before the former was proclaimed Queen of Madagascar. The Queen associated herself with the King during the whole period of his differences with the nobles, never left him, used her utmost endeavours on his behalf to the very last, and, I have been told, weeps much on account of his death.

"In conjunction with the Queen, the nobles and heads of the people have been employed ever since the inauguration of the new government in revising existing arrangements which the great change requires; and it is expected that a large national kabary, or public assembly, will be convened, perhaps to-day, when the result of these deliberations will be publicly made known to the people.

"I was much struck with the regularity and order with which these great changes were effected. The houses of the obnoxious Menamaso who were put to death, were plundered and destroyed, not in obedience to orders, but according to acknowledged Malagasy usages in war. No article belonging to any other individual was touched; no other persons than those demanded by the nobles were molested in the slightest degree, though it is stated that, during the continuance of the disturbance there were nearly twenty thousand armed men in the capital, some having been marched in from a great distance. 3000 were Betsileo, from beyond Vakinankaratra, the high broken ridge of mountains to the south-west. There were but few troops with the King, and these refused to fire on the adherents of the Minister.

"In some respects the members of the new government have begun well. One of their first acts was a most unprecedented one: they gave daily pay to the soldiers on duty at the palaces, and served out new lambas of six yards each to 8000 of the troops that came into the

city during the first three days after the call of the minister and his associates. They also gave new lambas to 1500 city watchmen. Acts of this sort will make them very popular.

"Some of the Christians are, perhaps, a little doubtful about the permanency of the present liberty and privileges; but should the existing friendly relations between England, France, and Madagascar, remain uninterrupted, the progress of Christianity, and the prosperity of Madagascar, would seem to rest on a broader and safer foundation than it has ever done before. The Christians seem to be impressed with a sense of their duty to put forth every effort of which they are capable for conveying the knowledge of Christianity to the heathen portions of the people. The preparation for the memorial churches has been but slightly interrupted, and will, in a day or two, be resumed with great activity.

"P.S. A kabary, or national assembly, at which not fewer than 30,000 persons were present, has been held to-day. The code of laws for the kingdom has been read, and the heads of the several classes in the community, and all present seem satisfied."

A native version of the same events in given in the subjoined letter from Rainilairivony, the Commander-in-chief, to Major A. E. H. Anson, Royal Artillery:—

"I write to inform you as a friend, that his Majesty Radama has given too much power to the Menamaso, who were too proud to everybody by the power which his Majesty has given them, and judged the people in an unjust manner, that if any man do wrong, if he give the Menamaso money, he will be free; and they raised people that gave them money, from low rank to be generals or colonels. They also attempted to have disbanded all the Malagasy soldiers, and to kill all the chief officers, but they did not succeed. They also flattered the King that the men and women will do such shameful things which I cannot tell you, and the people grumbled at this. They also made a law which I think would desolate Madagascar: everybody was to be allowed to kill by muskets or swords, and they encouraged the idol-keepers to murder all the Christians in Madagascar, to the number of many thousands. But the Almighty God, who is the master of all things, did not wish to desolate our beautiful island.

"On the morning of the 8th May last, all the chiefs of the different districts of Imerina, the judges, and all the great officers of state, went to the house of his Excellency the Prime Minister to ask him to go with them, as they are going to ask his Majesty to take off these bad laws. To such a request the Prime Minister did not object, and went with them. They went up together, and waited for the King in the court-yard for many hours, as his Majesty was drunk the night before, and did not get up from his bed till ten o'clock in the morning. As soon as the King had dressed himself and left his bed-room, they asked him to speak to him, and, as soon as he consented, the Prime Minister spoke, and said that the people, on hearing of the new law, were afraid of such a law, and came to ask his Majesty to take it off, as it will produce civil war. At first he nearly consented, and the people were bursting with joy; but in four or five minutes his bad thoughts came to him, and he said, 'I will not take off my law, as that will do good for my country.' Again the people asked him to take it off, as no one would be safe with such a law; to which his Majesty did not agree. After stopping about an hour at the Royal Chamber, they all retired, and grief was upon all the countenances of the brave. Again they returned after a few steps, and asked his Majesty whether they are to arm themselves against their enemies the Menamaso. 'Go and arm yourselves,' was the reply. The people then went to the Prime Minister's house, and told him that they will kill all the Menamaso, for these men had caused the King to make such a terrible law. For which the Prime Minister thought it would not be safe for his own life to refuse, and he immediately consented.

"At six on the morning of the second day, all Antananarivo rose as one man in arms, and were all ready to kill the Menamaso. In an hour about ten of them were killed by the people, on the road or in their houses; and the rest, to the number of about thirty-three, fled or joined the King at the stone house, who hastened from the Palace to save them.

"In a few moments the Royal Flag was in the midst of the people, carried by four men, who said that His Majesty asked that the rest of the Menamaso shall not be killed. The countless multitude shouted that they will fight to the last man to cut these devil Menamaso in pieces, who had so ill-judged us, and had got too much riches from us, and had sold our wives and children to be slaves by bad judgments.

They asked the King to give to them the Menamaso, as they did not wish to shoot the King. The flag and the King's messenger returned several times, but the people did not consent.

"The King then returned to the palace, where he was joined by his Queen and the other of the royal family, and ordered the guards to load their arms, and the Artillery of the Royal Guards to load their guns. The soldiers immediately followed the order of their sovereign, by loading the muskets with the powder, but not a single one of them put a bullet inside. The artillery-men then assured his Majesty that they had no powder, and the King called all the slaves to go up to the verandah of the big palace, and about three hundred got up there.

"These arrangements made by the King were soon known to the officers and the people, and made them very angry, and they said, 'We are not to fight against our King, but we are to fight the Menamaso; and why does the King make his guards fight against us?'

"On the morning of the 10th of May, Sunday, they sent many hundreds of the people without arms to the palace, to tell the King that they will not kill the Menamaso, but put them in chains. To this request the King did not consent, and at noon of the same, the people, in countless numbers, with a fearful rage, came up from the Prime Minister's yard, and blockaded the palace. His Majesty, on seeing the people coming up, told the Menamaso that he would deliver them to the people to be put in chains, and in a few months he would disband all the soldiers and untie them, and then kill all the chief officers, and some of the chief civilians; and the Menamaso consented.

"In an hour a message from the King arrived, and said that he will deliver the Menamaso to the people, and the people were glad to put them in irons. In the evening it was heard that the King intended to kill all the chief officers in a few months. On the second day the Menamaso were delivered to the people to be put in chains.

"The people now began to think to kill his Majesty Radama II., as they were afraid he would kill them, and to put Rabodo on the throne, as she is the heir of the throne by the will of the late Queen Ranavalona.

"The King Radama II. was killed by the people at seven o'clock on the morning of Tuesday 12th May, and the people afterwards made very good laws: the Queen of Madagascar is no more to be despotic,

the Christian is to be free from all annoyance, and the abolition of the *Tangena* is to be for ever. To which the Queen consented.

"Thus ended the reign of Radama II., King of Madagascar. I hope now that Madagascar will grow up to be a nation.

* * * * * * *

"Your sincere friend,

"RAINILAIRIVONY,

"Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c."

CONCLUSION OF THE TREATY.

By our latest advices from the capital of Madagascar, which reach to the 30th of June, we are happy to learn that H.B.M.'s Consul has successfully negotiated the English Treaty, which was signed on the 27th of that month, at the Palace of Manjakamiadana, in presence of the Queen, Prime Minister, and Chief Hova officers, seemingly amid great rejoicings. What took place on the occasion being thus described by a correspondent:—

"After protracted negotiation and reference to the British Government, H.B.M.'s Consul obtained the acceptance of the English Treaty, on the 22nd of June, when the contents of it were, by the Queen's orders, published to all the government officers and to the representatives of the people, the latter having been summoned from all parts of the province of Imerina. When full publicity had thus been given to the proposed Treaty, and that public opinion had decidedly pronounced in favour of its being concluded, Tuesday, the 27th of June, was fixed upon as the day for signing it, the Queen, with very great tact and judgment, selecting for her plenipotentiaries two sixteen Honours, one of them the Chief Secretary of State, the other a noble, the Chief Judge of Imerina, and the head of the civilians of that province. By this judicious arrangement, the Queen, government, nobles, and people, are alike parties to the agreement.

"Early on the morning of the 27th, an unusual movement was discernible in Tananarivo and its suburbs. Numbers of officers in gorgeous uniforms might be seen hurrying up to the palace, in many cases followed by their wives in palanquins; all appeared bustle and excitement. Towards noon, the square of Andahalo and the road thence to the palace became crowded, the terraces, and even the tops of the houses on each side of it, being literally covered with natives in their white lambas, all evidently expecting some great event. About two o'clock P.M., eight officers of the palace in full dress on horseback, with the Queen's band and a guard of honour dressed in scarlet uniforms, arrived from the palace, and formed on 'Andahalo' facing the British and French consulates; and on the two consuls appearing, the troops presented arms, the band playing successively 'God save the Queen,' and 'Partant pour la Syrie.' The Consuls then set out for the palace in palanquins, preceded by the officers on horseback and band, and escorted by the guard of honour. By this time the road to Manjakamiadana had become so thronged with eager spectators, of whom there must have been at least 10,000, that a passage could with difficulty be forced through the crowd. On reaching the palace gate, most of the British residents joined the *cortège*. (The Queen had invited the whole of the European community to be present on the occasion.) On alighting from their palanqunis the Consuls, accompanied by the European residents present, on entering the inner enclosure of Manjakamiadana (in Malagash 'to reign in peace,') were received by a large number of officers and troops in full dress, the latter presenting arms; also by two bands of musicians, who struck up simultaneously 'God save the Queen,' and 'Partant pour la Syrie.' What with ministers, officers, princesses, nobles, ladies of honour, civilians, and the tsimandors (the Queen's confidential servants) in neat green uniforms, in all about 1000 persons, the spacious state-room of Manjakamiadana was as full as it could hold: but a passage, lined by officers, had been left from the entrance to the further end where the Queen was seated. Her Majesty, clothed in green velvet robes fringed with gold, and wearing a tiara looked remarkably well, and thoroughly the Queen. To her right, on a crimson velvet cushion, was placed her crown. In a semicircle, almost immediately in front of her Majesty, seats had been placed for

the Prime Minister and Consuls. In rear of them stood the princesses and ladies of honour, all dressed in European costumes, and immediately behind them, the nobles and civilians. To the right of her Majesty were the Ministers of State and the courtiers. The whole of the court arrangements were admirable, and the ceremonies were conducted with the greatest order and decorum. The Queen rose to receive the Consuls, but received all other visitors, seated. After a few words of compliment, the British Consul asked the Queen's permission to proceed with the signing of the treaty, and on obtaining her Majesty's assent, after the different signatures and seals had been affixed, tended it for her Majesty's inspection, when a salute of twenty-one guns was fired. On receiving it back, the Consul spoke as follows:—

"'May it please your Majesty, Prime Minister, officers, nobles, and representatives of the people, I cannot allow the present occasion to pass without a few observations and words of friendly advice on the important act which has just been performed. The friendly relations existing between England and Madagascar have this day been strengthened and confirmed by the treaty which has been concluded. Its different clauses have been for a long time under the consideration of the Hova government; they have been carefully examined and fully discussed. In November last, the negotiations opened, and in December following, I received and submitted to H.B.M.'s government a note of such modifications as the Hova government desired in the original draft which I am happy to say the British Government have been pleased to admit as far as possible. The publicity which has been given to this treaty, coupled with the fact of your Majesty having very wisely deputed the representatives of the people as well as your confidential officers to sign it, whereby the people of Madagascar as well as the Government are parties to the agreement, must prevent its ever being truthfully said that I forced a treaty on your Majesty's Government with the stipulations of which they were unacquainted. A strict observance of the engagements which have this day been contracted will ensure to Madagascar the friendship of England; any disregard of them will plunge your Majesty's Government into trouble and difficulties. Allow me to express a sincere hope, that with the assistance of my friend and colleague the French Consul,

your Majesty may shortly be able to conclude a treaty with France, and thus secure the friendship of that country. I take the opportunity of thanking your Majesty and your ministers for the friendly spirit in which the negotiations have been carried on, and for the courtesy and consideration I have met with. As I am about leaving for Tamatave, I commend to the special care and protection of your Majesty and your officers not only all British, but all European residents at Antanarivo. It now only remains for me to pray God, which I do most fervently, to grant unto your Majesty a long, happy, peaceful, and prosperous reign; to dispose the hearts of your ministers to love and respect truth and justice, and those of your subjects to respect the laws of their country.'"

The Queen thanked the British Consul for the words he had spoken, stating that the Treaty engagements would be faithfully executed, as her Government and the people wished to be friends with England. Her Majesty also expressed her sincere thanks to the British Consul for the manner in which he had conducted the negotiations, and then addressing the French Consul, said, that her Government desired also the friendship of France. The Consuls then took leave of the Queen, and were reconducted to their respective consulates with the same ceremony as on leaving for the palace.

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